

Ong's Hat

The Beginning



Joseph Matheny

Authorized Version

Ong's Hat

The Beginning

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Joseph Matheny

*Wild/card (inter)[active]



WLD CRD.INFO

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DEDICATION

To my eternal friends and teachers, the Formless Ocean Group (FOG).
To Alan Miller (Christopher Hyatt) for encouragement and wisdom. To
D.W.

(Don) Cooper for being a true friend and co-conspirator. To Diane
DiPrima for being an inspiration and a patient teacher.

Most of you are now gone from this earth, but you all live on in my
heart and mind.

Other books by Joseph Matheny *Liminal* by Cameron (as Cameron
Whiteside) *Xen: The Zen of the Other* (as Ezra Buckley) *Statio Numero*

You have been searching for us without knowing it, following oblique
references in crudely xeroxed marginal “samisdat” publications,
crackpot mystical pamphlets, mail-order courses . . . a paper trail and a
coded series of rumors spread at street level . . . and the propagation of
certain acts of insurrection against the Planetary Work Machine and
the Consensus Reality . . . or perhaps through various obscure
mimeographed technical papers on the edges of “chaos science” . . .
through pirate computer networks . . . or even through pure
synchronicity and the pursuit of dreams.

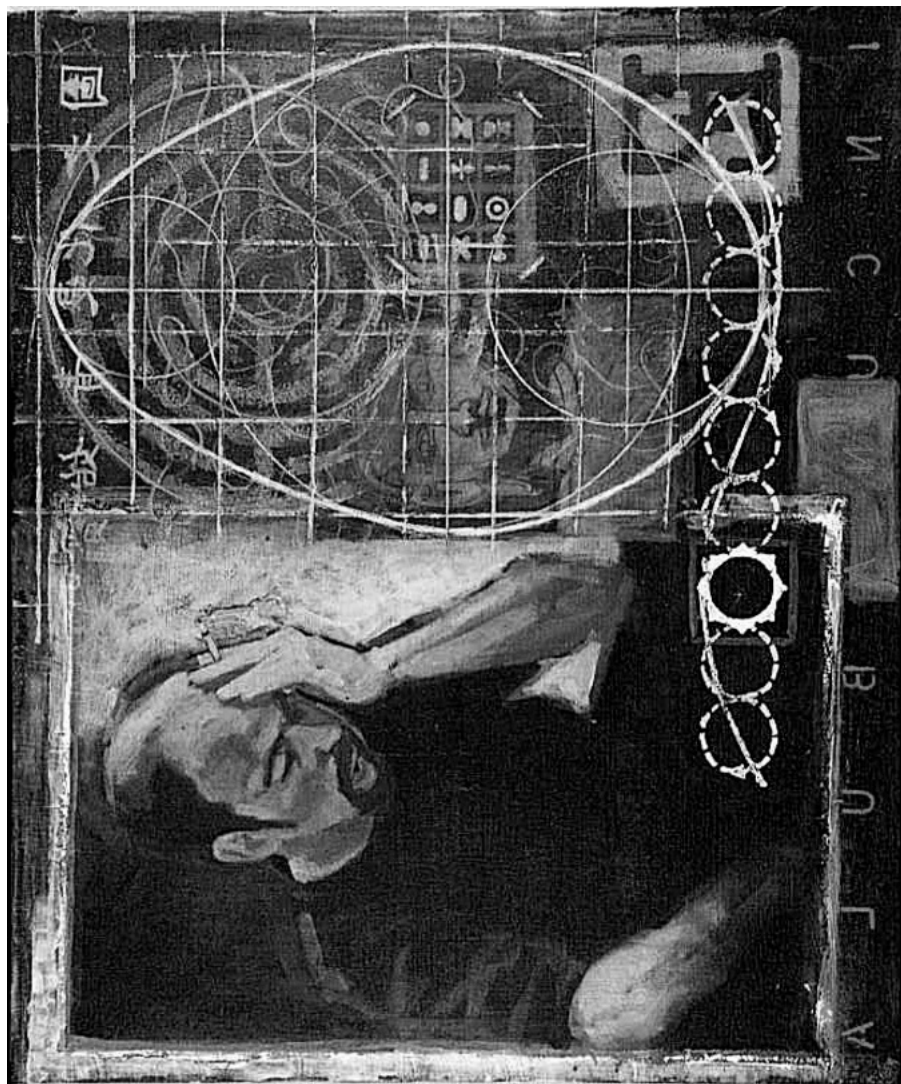
In any case, we know something about you, your interests, deeds and
desires, works and days ... and we know your address.

Otherwise. . . you would not be reading this brochure. . .

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments

i	
1	Introduction
1	
2	Incunabula
11	
3	ONG'S HAT: GATEWAY TO THE DIMENSIONS!
36	
4	Advances in Skin Science: Quantum Tantra
48	
5	Joseph Matheny Interviews the Elusive Emory Cranston 55
6	Joseph Matheny Interviews Ong's Hat Ashram Survivors 63
7	Meditation or Key Eggs:
81	
8	Ong's Hat- Graphic Novel chapters
85	
9	Epilogue
97	
10	List of Free Digital Resources
100	



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Thanks to the many players over the years who have contacted me to express their gratitude, support, and inspiration. Thanks to Peter Wilson, Nick Herbert, and many others for playing along and putting up with my bul shit.

INTRODUCTION BY JOSEPH MATHENY

Addendum to the introduction added in 2021

I am adding this short addendum because I intend this as the final edition of this material that I will ever produce. The Incunabula/Ong's Hat project was an early attempt to utilize the Internet as a fluid medium for storytelling across multiple media platforms. I think it was largely successful. Where it failed is in failing to anticipate some of the weaknesses that we have since learned about doing public art projects with unfettered user participation, but that's a story for another day.

Ong's Hat was an interdisciplinary Avante Garde media art project. I have talked at length about it in several media appearances, which I have linked to in the final chapter of this book titled "List of Digital Resources."

Bear in mind, much of the explanation of what I was trying to achieve was often omitted in these interviews because, as it usually goes with so-called journalists, they are always more interested in the salacious sensationalism and less so about the artistic intentions behind such projects.

I will also advise you that this is a collection of pieces that made up an on-line, living narrative, and to try and read them in a linear storyline fashion will be a frustrating exercise in futility. As William S. Burroughs once said, "Any writer who hopes to approximate what actually occurs in the mind and body of his characters cannot confine himself to such an arbitrary structure as a logical sequence."

This is a historical document and a starting place for anyone who wishes to know more about an art project that once upon a time created a furor, inspired, enraged, and confused many, as art is wont to do.

Enjoy and don't mind the kayfabe.

Original Introduction

It is often said that life is stranger than fiction. Indeed, I can attest to that.

However, life can truly become strange when the lines between "truth" and

"fiction" blur like a fractal basin boundary.

Is reality elastic?

Is the future co-creative?

Can the endless possibility waves and bifurcation points along the 1

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) seemingly linear flow of day-to-day life be codified and transmogrified?

All good questions and my observations, experiments, and results over the last 20 years seem to point to the answer— maybe.

Now, right now, you may be saying, after 20 years, all he concluded was maybe? To which I answer, "I wasn't even sure of that when I began."

Therefore the very possibility implied in the "maybe" warrants further research. That in itself is good news.

What are the Incunabula/Ong's Hat documents, and where did they come from? That's an interesting question and one I ask myself quite often.

You see, even people who are neck-deep into the Ong's Hat enigma can't quite answer that. So, where did this all come from?

Here are the facts as I know them:

Where is Ong's Hat?

It will be interesting to backtrack and let everyone know what little historical facts have been gathered about the remote and enigmatic location in the Pine Barrens of southern New Jersey known as Ong's Hat. It appears on some state maps but not on others. The designation appears just under thirty miles east of Philadelphia, just north of New Jersey State Highway 70.

There, you will find Ong's Hat Road and a bar in a little triangle. If you're lucky (and buy around), some of the people in the bar might tell you some strange stories about the area.

The Pine Barrens themselves have always been a mysterious and enigmatic location. It was settled in the pre-revolutionary days and eventually included Hessians, the German soldiers paid by the British, who did not desire to return to their Germanic homeland. You may recall the headless horseman was a Hessian, but I digress.

What little there is to learn of the history of Ong's Hat comes from Henry Beck, who penned a book in 1936 entitled *Forgotten Towns of Southern New Jersey*. At that time, Ong's Hat had appeared on maps and been around for over a century, but no one had ever taken it too seriously. Mr. Beck took a photographer, a "State Editor," and traveled to the region and interviewed what remaining natives were left in the area that had been designated as Ong's Hat. According to them, the name originated from a young man whose last name was "Ong." Mr. Ong was quite a dancer who captivated the ladies with his smooth moves and fashionable and shiny high silk hat. At that particular time, the little vil age consisted only of smal houses and a dance hal . There was also a clearing where semipro prizefights were held. It seemed that one Saturday night, Mr. Ong snubbed one of his female partners, at which point she took the hat from his head and deliberately stamped upon it in the middle 2

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) of the dance floor. Another account picks up the story at this point but offers a little more information. It was said that Mr. Ong, who was quite inebriated at the time, tossed his distinguished hat into a tree in the center of the vil age.

There, it stood in the tree, unreachable and battered. It hung there amidst the rain and wind for many months. At some point, the little town acquired the name of Ong's Hat.

The Ong's Hat Ashram story, as told in the following chapters, seems to trace its roots back to the beginning of the Second World War.

During the early days post-Pearl Harbor, America suddenly found itself in the position of having its eastern seaboard invaded by German U-Boats and its western seaboard invaded by Japanese submarines. Feeling behind in the race, so to speak, the military-industrial complex was born and given carte blanche to proceed with any means

necessary to get on top of the ball. From this initiative came many "secret projects." The military got its brainpower for a lot of these programs from Princeton University, which is located very near Ong's Hat. Read the bestselling book, "A Beautiful Mind," for a deep look into that group of unique minds. Also, see the opening chapters to Neal Stephenson's "Cryptonomicon" for more insight.

John Tukey was one of the many Renaissance minds that wandered in and out of the many official and unofficial groups that formed and reformed with the regularity and fluidity of a Temporary Autonomous Zone.

John Tukey attracted international attention for his studies in mathematical and theoretical statistics and their applications to a wide variety of scientific and engineering disciplines. He led the way in the now-burgeoning fields of Exploratory Data Analysis and Robust Estimation, and his contributions to the Spectrum Analysis of Time Series and other aspects of Digital Signal Processing have been widely used in engineering and science. He has been credited with coining the word "bit," a contraction of "binary digit," which refers to a unit of information, often as processed by a computer.

In addition to strong continuing interests in a wide variety of areas of statistical philosophy, techniques, and application, Tukey was active in improving the access of the scientist to scientific literature, particularly through the development of citation and permutation indices to the literature of statistics and probability.

Looking at an 11 April 1984 interview with John Tukey, we see this strange admission:

Tucker: Wallman ended up as a professor of electric techniques at the Chalmers Institute in Gothenburg, Sweden, where he is now retired. He wrote a book with Witold Hurewicz on dimension theory.

Tukey: It was intellectually about as strong a group as you are likely 3 Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) to find.

Tucker: Wasn't Stone in this group?

Tukey: Arthur, yes. When did Arthur come? He must have been here by '39. Arthur, Dick Feynman, Bryant Tuckerman—who went to IBM—and I were the people who invented hexaflexagons...

Tucker: Was it that group that used the pseudonym "Pondiczery"?

Tukey: Yes, but with a somewhat broader reference.

Aspray: For what purpose?

Tukey: Well, the hope was that at some point Ersatz Stanislaus Pondiczery at the Royal Institute of Poldavia was going to be able to sign something ESP RIP. Then there's the wedding invitation done by the Bourbakis. It was for the marriage of Betty Bourbaki and Pondiczery. It was a formal wedding invitation with a long Latin sentence, most of which was mathematical jokes, three quarters of which you could probably decipher.

Pondiczery even wrote a paper under a pseudonym, namely "The Mathematical Theory of Big Game Hunting" by H. Petard which appeared in the Monthly. There were also a few other papers by Pondiczery.

Tucker: Moulton, the editor of the Monthly at that time, wrote to me saying that he had this paper and the envelope was postmarked Princeton, and he assumed that it was done by some people in math at Princeton. He said he would very much like to publish the paper, but there was a firm policy against publishing anything anonymous. He asked if I, or somebody else that he knew and could depend on, would tell him that the authorship would be revealed if for any reason it became legally necessary. I did not know precisely who they were, but I knew that John [Tukey] was one of them. He seemed to be in the thick of such things. John agreed that I could accept Moulton's terms. I sent a letter with this assurance to Moulton and he went ahead and published it. Which I thought was very flexible on ..

Tukey: Somebody with a high principle. Pondiczery's official residence was in Ong's Hat, New Jersey which is a wide place in the road going southeast from Pemberton, but it does appear on some road maps.

There is a gas station that has a sign out about Ong's Hat.

Aspray: But no sign for Pondiczery?

Tukey: No sign for Pondiczery. Spelled c-z-e-r-y, by the way. Not like the area of India, Pondicherry, which is spelled c-h. Anyway, this was a good group, and I enjoyed its existence. I learned a lot from dinner table conversations. What was the name of our algebraist friend, a quiet soul who was around at that time?

4

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) To continue, further research into this area shows that the area of Ong's Hat was a popular weekend spot for the Princeton groups and has been used in a historiographic metafictional sense in this very context by Neal Stephenson, in his seminal work, *Cryptonomicon*. Keep the concept of the Ong's Hat Rod and Gun Club in your mind as you read this material (cited in the following chapters) and then think back to this sequence of clues when you encounter it. I think you will be able to put together the connection between a "Rod and Gun" club in Ong's Hat with the Princeton "weekender"

phenomena and Tukey's "dinner club" reference above for yourself.

So what does this mean? Well, it would seem to indicate that a group of scientists that were working on many secret projects wrote papers under pseudonyms and used the now deserted New Jersey Pine Barren Town of Ong's Hat as a "residence" address for this endeavor. Why would they do such a thing? In an interview I did with a man who claimed to have been a young technical writer for one of these teams (name withheld by request), some of the projects that the budding U.S. Military Industrial Complex were sponsoring may have, in the mind of the scientists, gotten into ethical "gray areas." Torn between duty to country and responsibility to the future of humankind, they "leaked" certain information to the general populace using the "fictional" character method. That they chose Ong's Hat for the residence of their fictional characters will become more suspicious as we progress.

Also, the fact is that a big part of this team's focus was on cryptography and the cracking of the Enigma codes. During World War II, one of these people, Alan Turing, served with the British

"Government Communication Headquarters" (GCHQ) at Bletchley Park, where he played a significant role in breaking the German Enigma codes. There, he used a machine called Colossus to decipher the Enigma codes. These machines were the predecessors to the first digital computers.

The scholastic sources that this amorphous and shadowy group drew upon, and the method of sending messages into the noosphere, within a coded document, will become even clearer later in this chapter. This method employs the technology known as memes as its primary force. Memes are patterns of information that behave like viruses. The science of memetics studies the replication, mutation, and carriers of memes. Many scientists consider memes to be actual living things that "ride" in the nervous systems of human beings and hibernate in books, computer disks, etc. Examples of memes include catchy commercial jingles, the concept of money, political beliefs, and art styles. Certain memes, such as teenage cultural fads, are very susceptible to mutation. In contrast, others, such as the major religions, have hit evolutionary dead-ends and hardly change from decade to decade. Some memes, like fire building techniques, are beneficial to their host, while others are toxic to their hosts, such as the kamikaze and Jim Jones memes. Oxford 5

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) zoologist Richard Dawkins coined the term meme in his 1976 book, *The Selfish Gene*. For now, hold those concepts as floating-point integers in your mind.

So, how does this all tie into the book catalog and the brochure?

My first encounter with *Incunabula: A Catalog of Rare Books, Manuscripts & Curiosa* came about through serendipity. I was living in Santa Cruz, California, at the time and lived in a wonderful and affordable apartment building on a hill overlooking the beach. When I moved in, I discovered that former Millbrook, Esalen, UCSC, and ISC alumni were the primary inhabitants of the complex. Among these were Nina Graboi, former assistant to Timothy Leary at the Milbrook Institute in Dutchess County New York, and assistant to UCSC Chaos Mathematician Ralph Abraham; Robert Forte, friend and associate of Albert Hoffman, the inventor of LSD 25; and a plethora of similar "counter-culture" figures.

321 Second Street acted as a nexus point for me. Nina was fond of entertaining various counter-culture figures as they came through

central California in her "parlor," giving me ample exposure to said guests. One of the people I admired the most from this scene was a person who has requested that I withhold his name, so we'll call him "Bob." Bob was a brilliant physicist who possessed a twisted sense of humor that I personally found palatable. He intrigued me for several reasons: he was funny and intelligent as hell, he had incredible stories about being convinced to walk out on his life as a scientist at Lawrence Livermore Labs due to an encounter with a "dimensional" being, and his involvement with the Metaphase Typewriter experiments, coincidentally with done in conjunction with Nick Herbert, who will come into our story later.

The Metaphase Typewriter was a Quantum-uncertain text generator open for mediumistic possession by discarnate spirits.

The experiment's text output was created on a quantum-random typewriter overlain with second-order English language statistics. The

"metaphase typewriter" was part of a project carried out by members of the Consciousness Theory Group to build machines to communicate with disembodied spirits, including spirits of the dead and beings from other dimensions or dissociated fragments of living personalities. Imagine all of this happening at Lawrence Livermore! The 60s were certainly a lively time for pure science!

Ordinary awareness is one of the biggest mysteries of our age: scientists are totally baffled by the fact that humans enjoy "inner experience"

along with their behavior and are at a loss to explain the origin of this experience. However, much progress has been made in explaining the

6

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) behavior. One small group of mind scientists believes that mind is a quantum effect and that disembodied entities (which might be called "souls") manipulate the body by willfully causing quantum possibilities to become actual. In this view, mind enters the body from outside (a philosophical position known as "dualism") by operating on certain quantum-uncertain parts of the nervous system.

For centuries, special people have claimed to be possessed by discarnate beings, spirits of the dead, beings from other planets, or higher dimensions. Members of the Consciousness Theory Group felt

that there was something vaguely unethical about possessing an already occupied body.

They wondered if they could create an empty "consciousness-friendly" vessel and invite wandering souls to occupy it.

In the early 1970's Nick Herbert (SCM Corp) and Dick Shoup (Xerox PARC), along with "Bob," designed and built the first "metaphase"

devices—quantum operated machines that produced text (metaphase typewriter) and speech (quantum metaphone). They used for their quantum-uncertain source a quantity of radioactive Thallium monitored by a Geiger counter. They looked at the INTERVALS between Geiger counter clicks and printed a probable letter if that interval was very probable, printed an improbable letter if that interval was improbable (much longer than average, for instance). They obtained the second-order English language statistics from an unclassified NSA document available to the public.

The metaphase typewriter was operated under several curious conditions without much success. They invited several famous and not-so-famous psychics to try to influence the endless stream of random anagrams flowing from the typewriter or to cause the ghostly voice from the quantum metaphone to make sense in some known language. They held séances to evoke the spirits of colleagues who had recently died and who knew about the typewriter, and they held an all-day séance on the 100th anniversary of Harry Houdini's birth to try to contact the spirit of this great magician.

For the next step in metaphase research, they proposed building quantum-driven communicators that are more consciousness-friendly than radioactive sources. These devices are more similar in size, operation, and energy to the (purportedly) quantum synapses in human nervous systems.

These devices, called "Eccles Gates" after Nobel laureate Sir John Eccles, one of the chief champions of quantum consciousness, would be composed of an array of quantum-uncertain silicon switches as much like the meat-based synaptic switches in our brains. (Update: In 2014 IBM announced a chip similar in design to this proposal).

In the MPT experiments, I saw a mechanically scientific application of

my own theories on the construction of what I called a "living book. In
7

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) my living book theories, later to be called The Metamachine for short, which I will expound upon these in my next book, Game Over? Bob saw an element that the MPT had been missing: namely, the human interface and connection to the collective unconscious that seems to make this kind of stuff work.

Also, with the results of the MPT experiment, I had methods, proofs, and failures to base the mathematical models I was using as the framework for my Living Book experiment. These early experiments were much later to be adapted into the storytelling methods now known as Alternate Reality Gaming and Transmedia. But I digress.

One day in my apartment, where Bob and I were smoking hash while deliberating the connections between the Quantum models for consciousness and a particular passage in James Joyce's Ulysses, Bob stopped me and pulled out a sheaf of Xeroxed papers from his bag.

"Ever see these?" he asked.

I picked up the papers and looked them over. "No," I replied.

"Where did you get them?"

"Someone sent them to Felicia, anonymously," he replied. Felicia was a media producer friend of ours from Marin County.

I looked them over. Upon first glance, it appeared to be a fringe science catalog, selling books. I pointed to my bookshelves.

"I have tons of this kind of stuff. I've been collecting fringe science pamphlets and booklets for years."

I then went to my bookshelf and pulled out a newly acquired copy of High Weirdness by Mail. I threw it down on the table.

"Look, someone even did a compendium of all the weird shit you can send away for," I said. "Collecting this kind of stuff is a fairly popular wacko pastime."

He snickered in the strange way that he had when he was being cryptically funny. "So Joe, the fact that you have an index and vast collection of this stuff on your bookshelf makes you one of the Alpha wackos?"

I laughed. "Yeah, I guess so!"

He pointed back to the catalog on the table. "Nick Herbert is implicated in this. It says he wrote some book that was suppressed. He told me he doesn't remember writing it until he read about it in here, but now he's beginning to question if he did...."

We both stood comfortably silent as only the stoned can and stared at 8

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) the catalog for a while.

A few days later, I was at a party at the Soundmotion Garden studios, and I cornered Felicia, partly because I was genuinely interested in the origin of the catalog and partly because I thought Felicia was a total "hotty"

(Californian for very attractive).

"Hey, did you get a weird Xerox catalog of science books and give it to Bob?" I asked.

"Oh, yeah, that. Yeah," she said.

"Where did it come from?" I asked.

"No idea, it came without a return address. How did you get it?" she replied.

"Bob.. " I answered.

"Oh, yeah. Funny how all the books in that catalog are on your shelf,

huh?

I thought it might be from you. ." she said, smiling coyly.

"Nope," I said. "I see how you could think that, but no."

I went inside where Bob was sitting in an overstuffed chair, holding wacko court as usual, with several Mondoids (fol owers of the radical publication Mondo 2000). I pul ed him aside. "Stil have that catalog you showed me the other day?" I asked.

"Yeah," he said as he reached into his bag and handed it to me. "Here.

You can have it. I figure it's more up your alley."

I rolled it up and put it into my back pocket. I looked out the window and saw several college girls who had showed up disrobing to enter the hot tub. I went back out to the deck and forgot about the catalog in my pocket for several days.

Days later, I pul ed the catalog from my pocket as I prepared my pile of dirty clothes for the laundry. I read it as I waited for my laundry to finish. I was stunned. This was so clever! Someone had actual y disguised a bril iant series of short stories as a crackpot book catalog! As a fan of Xerox crackpot lit, I could ful y appreciate the methodology involved. I ran off copies on a Xerox machine and gave them to several people. Eventually, along with a friend who owned a mail-order conspiracy book company, I sold up a "Xerox for cost" edition. Individuals or other catalog companies ordered sets, and that Xeroxed to order. I estimate that we distributed thousands of copies like this. Later, when I began to look into the background and origins of the material, I discovered that this was no "joke" and, in fact, may represent a signal that is being transmitted in many different forms, whose ful purpose 9

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) I am yet to comprehend ful y.

As you hear the documents read, bear in mind that the catalog is not really a catalog; the brochure is not really a brochure. They are clever

"enigma" codes that carry powerful symbolism and a powerful message, which is merely disguised as a catalog and brochure.

Look no further than today's popular media to see the signal as it is picked up.

A frequency, a signal, a message in a bottle?

Joseph Matheny

From somewhere in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey 10

INCUNABULA PRESS



CATALOGUE 1990/91

Original Mail-Art Cover, James Koehnline

This catalog is a reproduction. This is not a commercial advertisement. Consider this a complete bibliography to the story that unravels in the companion documents. Read this like a series of short stories or a novel a, and you will agree with us that it is, in fact, a coded message and not a book catalog at all.

INCUNABULA

A Catalogue of Rare Books, Manuscripts & Curiosa Conspiracy Theory
Frontier Science & Alternative Worlds Emory Cranston, Prop.

Incunabulum/cocoon/swaddling clothes/cradle/ incunae, in the cradle/koiman, put to sleep/winding-sheet/koimetarium (cemetery)/ printed books before 1501, hence by extension any rare & hermetic book. .

INTRODUCTION

No book for sale here was actually printed before 1501, but they all answer to the description “rare and hermetic” — even the mass market paperbacks, not to mention the Xeroxes of unpublished manuscripts, which cannot be obtained from any other source!

The symbol INCUNABULA was chosen for our company for its shape-cocoon; egg-like, gourd-like — the shape of Chaos according to Chaung Tzu. Cradle: beginnings. Sleep: dreams. Silken white sheets of birth and death; books, white pages, the cemetery of ideas.

This catalogue has been put together with a purpose: to alert YOU

to a vast cover-up, a conspiracy so deep that no other researcher has yet become aware of it (outside certain Intelligence circles, needless to say!) —

and so dangerous that the “winding sheet” imagery in our title seems quite appropriate; we know of at least two murders so far in connection with this material.

Unlike other conspiracy theories, such as Hollow Earth, Men In Black, cattle mutilation, UFO, Reich & Tesla or what have you, the INCUNABULA Theory harmonizes with genuine frontier quantum mechanics and chaos mathematics and does not depend on any quack nostrums, pseudoscience or ESP for proof. This will become clear to anyone who takes the trouble to read the background material we recommend and offer for sale.

Because of the unprecedented nature of the INCUNABULA File, 12

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) we have included short descriptions of some of the books, pamphlets, flyers, privately — circulated or unpublished manuscripts, ephemera & curiosa available through us. Some of this is highly inflammable and sexual in nature, so an age statement must be included with each order.

Cash (or stamps) only. No cheques or money orders will be accepted.

Thank You,

Emory Cranston, Prop.

13

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **1. Wolf, Fred Alan**

Parallel Universes: The Search for Other Worlds (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1988)

Written by a scientist for non-scientists, simplistic and jokey, makes you feel a bit talked-down-to. Nevertheless, Wolf uses his imagination (or other scientist's imaginations) so well he seems to hit accidental y on certain truths - (unless he knows more than he reveals). For example, the parallel universes must have all come into being simultaneously "at the beginning" in order for quantum uncertainty to exist because there was no observer present at the Big Bang, thus no way for the Wave Function to collapse and produce one universe out

of all the bubbles of possibility (p. 174). If an electron can disappear in one universe and appear in another (as suggested by the Everett/Wheeler material), a process called “quantum tunneling,” then perhaps information can undergo a similar tunneling effect. Wolf suggests (p.176) that this might account for certain “psychic phenomena, altered states of awareness,” even ghosts and spirits! Actual travel between worlds must, of course, involve tunneling by both electrons AND information — any scientist would have predicted as much — but the mention of “altered states”

of consciousness is extremely revealing! Elsewhere (p.204), Wolf speculates that a future “highly developed. . . electronic form of biofeedback” will allow us to observe quantum effects in the electrons of our own bodies, making the enhanced consciousness and the body itself a “time machine” (which is what he calls a device for travel between universes). He comes so close to the truth then shies away! For instance (p.199), he points out that the Wave Function has a value BETWEEN zero and one until it collapses. If the wave function does not collapse, the “thing” it describes exists in two universes simultaneously. How strange of him not to mention that fractal geometry also deals with values between zero and one! As we know, the secret of travel between worlds is rooted in the marriage of quantum and chaos, particularly in the elusive mathematics of fractal tesseracts (visualize a 4-dimension Mandelbrot Set — one of the simplest of the trans-dimensional “maps” or

“catastrophic topologies”). Wolf appears so unaware of this; we must sadly conclude that he’s not part of the conspiracy.

Particularly interesting — and not found in any other material — are Wolf’s speculations about schizophrenia. Are schizophrenics receiving information from other worlds? Could a schizoid observer actually observe (in the famous double-slit experiments) a wave becoming two particles and then one particle? Or could such an observation be made by an extremely blank and simple-minded watcher (a sort of Zen simpleton perhaps)? If so, the perfect subject for parallel-worlds experiments would be a paradoxically complex simpleton, a “magnetized schizophrenic” who would be aware of 14

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) the split into two worlds which occurs when a quantum measurement is made. Oddly enough, such a mental state sounds very close to the “positive schizophrenia” of certain extreme psychedelic experiences as well as the meditation-visualization exercises of actual travelers between

worlds.

Despite its flaws, an essential work.

2. Herbert, Nick

Quantum Reality

(NAL,1986)

A masterful and lucid exposition of the different versions of reality logically describable from various interpretations of quantum mechanics. The Everett/Wheeler Theory is here given the clearest explanation possible in lay persons terms, given the author's awareness (at the time) of experimental verification.

3. *ibid.*

Faster Than Light: Superluminal Loopholes in Physics (NAL,1988)

Some of the theorists who touch on the Many-Worlds "hypothesis"

place too much emphasis on time distortions and the implication of "time travel." These, of course, seem present in the theorems but in practice have turned out (so far) to be of little consequence. Chaos Theory places much more emphasis on the temporal directionality than most quantum theory (with such exceptions as R. Feynman and his "arrow of time"), and offers strong evidence for the past-present-future evolution that we actually experience. As K. Sohrawardi puts it, "the universe is in a state of Being, true, but that state is not static in the way suggested by the concept of 'reversibility'

in Classical physics. The 'generosity' of Being, so to speak, is becoming, and the result is not reversibility but multiplicity, the immeasurable resonant chaos — like fecundity of creation." Nevertheless, Herbert's second book is a brilliant speculative work — and it led him directly to a certain circle of scientists and body of research concerned with dimensional travel, rather than "time travel", with the result that his third book (see next item) finally struck pay-

dirt.

4. “Jabir ibn Hayaan” (Nick Herbert).

Alternate Dimensions

(publication suppressed by Harper & Row, 1989) bound uncorrected galleys, 179pp.

15

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) While working on *Faster Than Light* Herbert came into contact with one of the “travel cults” operating somewhere in California, perhaps one with a sufi stic slant (“Jabir ibn Hayaan” was a famous 10th century sufi alchemist); according to the preface of *Alternate Dimensions*, which is irritatingly vague and suggestive, this group seems to have trained him and sent him on at least one trip to America². Herbert suggests that he already had so much experience of altered states of consciousness and ability to visualize complex space/time geometries that only a minimum of “initiatric” training proved necessary.

In any case, despite its vagueness and brevity, this book is the most accurate and thoroughly-informed work on travel between worlds in our entire collection. So far we have been unable to obtain any deep theoretical work, and only a few papers dealing with practical aspects — but Herbert provides a magnificent overview of the entire field. Written for the lay person, with his usual clear and succinct approach to theory, Herbert’s is the first “popular” study to make all the basic links: the Everett/Wheeler hypothesis, Bell’s Theorem, the E/R Bridge, fractal geometry and chaos math, cybernetically-enhanced biofeedback, psychotropic and shamanic techniques, crystallography, morphogenetic field theory, catastrophe topology, etc.

Of course he’s strongest in discussing the quantum aspects of travel, less sure when dealing with the math outside his field, and most inspiring when describing (pp. 98-101) visualization techniques and “embodied ecstasy” (ex-stasis, “standing outside” the body; hence embodied ecstasy paradoxically describes the trans-dimensional experience).

Herbert makes no claim to understand the traveling itself, and goes so far as to suggest that even the (unnamed) pioneers who made the first breakthroughs may not have completely understood the process, any more than the inventor of the steam engine understood Classical physics (p. 23).

This definitely ties in with what we know about the persons in question.

Unfortunately the six illustrations promised in the table of contents are not included in the galleys — one of them was a “Schematic for a Transdimensional Express” which might be worth killing for! — and the publishers claim that Herbert never supplied the illustrations. They refuse to say why they suspended publication of *Alternate Dimensions* and in fact at first denied ever having handled such a title! Moreover Herbert has apparently dropped out of sight; if he hasn’t met with foul play, he may have returned permanently to Earth2.

We regret having to sell copies of a flawed book for such an outrageous price; we’d like to publish a mass-market edition affordable by all

— but if Harper & Row ever find out what we’re doing, we’ll need the money 16

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) for court costs and lawyers’ fees! So get it while you can — this is THE

indispensable background work for understanding the Conspiracy.

5. Thomsen, Dietrick E.

“A Knowing Universe Seeking to be Known”

(Xerox offprint from ScienceNews, Vol. 123, 1983) Unwittingly demonstrates the resonance between quantum reality theory and the sufism of (for example) “the Greatest Shaykh” Ibn’Arabi, who discusses in his *Bezels of Wisdom* a saying attributed to God by Mohammad (but not in the Koran): “I was a hidden treasure and I wanted (lit. ‘loved’) to be known; so I created the universe, that I might be known.”

5a. We also have a few off-prints (at the same price) of Thomsen's witty "Quanta at Large: 101 Things To Do with Schroedinger's Cat" (op.

cit, 129, 1986).

6. DeWitt, Bryce S. & Neil Graham.

The Many Worlds Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics (Princeton, NJ, 1973)

The standard (and far from "easy"!) work on the Everett/Wheeler hypothesis — a bible for the early pioneers.

7. Cramer, John G.

"Alternate Universes II"

(Analog, Nov. 1984)

A popularization of the Theory by a prominent physicist — no knowledge of the Conspiracy is detectable. We're selling copies of the Sci-Fi mag itself for \$10 each.

8. Greenberg, D.M., ed.

New Techniques & Ideas in Quantum Measurement Theory (Vol. 480 Annals of the NY Academy of Sciences, 1986) Contains the valuable if somewhat whimsical article by D. Z. Albers,

"How to take a Photograph of Another Everett World". Also the very important "Macroscopic Quantum Tunneling at Finite Temperatures" by P.

Hanggi (we suspect him of being a Conspiracy member).

9. (Anonymous).

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) (no address); Xerox of mimeographed flyer, 7pp An in-house document from the Institute where the first breakthrough was attained (probably in the late winter or early spring of 1979) — therefore, although it makes no overt mention of Travel or the Egg, the Catalogue is of prime importance for an understanding of the intellectual and historical background of the event.

According to an unreliable source (see *ESCAPE FROM EARTH*

PRIME!, #15 in this list), the Institute was located somewhere in Dutchess County, New York, where the founder and director, Dr. Kamadev Sohrawardi, was employed by IBM in the 1960's, "dropped out" and began investigations into "consciousness physics"; it is also claimed that Sohrawardi was a Bengali of mixed English, Hindu and Moslem origin, descended from an old Sufi family, and initiated into Tantra. Al this disagrees with clues in other sources and is perhaps not to be trusted. Other groups take credit for Breakthrough, and Sohrawardi may have been a fraud — but we're convinced that the Catalogue is authentic and Sohrawardi's claim the most certain.

At first glance, the Catalogue appears an example of late-hippy/early-New-Age pretentiousness. Thus there are courses in "Visions of Color & Light in Sufi Meditation", "Inner Alchemy in Late Taoism",

"Metaphysics of the Ismaili 'Assassins'", "Imaginal Yoga & the Psychotoplogy of the Imagination", "Hermetic & Neo-Pagan Studies", (apparently based on Golden Dawn teachings), "Visualization Techniques in Javanese Sorcery", "Stairways to Heaven: Shamanic Trance & the Mapping of Consciousness", "Stirner, Nietzsche & Stone age Economy — An Examination of Non-Authoritarian Hunter/Gatherer Societies", and —

interestingly enough! — "Conspiracy Theory".

The "shamanic" course may have been a blind for research in psychotropic drugs, including such exotica asahuasca (yage, harmaline), ibogaine, yohimbine, Telepathine and Vitamin K, as well as the more standard psychedelicatesan of the late 70's.

However, the Catalogue also contains amazing courses in frontier science, any combination of which could have provided the key or final puzzle-bit to the Breakthrough: apparently Sohrawardi taught or supervised most of them. Thus “The Universe in a Grain of Sand” promised information on models of brain activity, cybernetically-enhanced feedback, Sheldrake’s morphogenetic field theory, Rene’ Thom’s Catastrophic Theory as applied to consciousness, lucid-dreaming research, John Lilly’s work on

“altered states” and other mind-related topics. Then in “Strange Attractors

& the Mathematics of Chaos”, Sohrawardi discussed matters unknown outside of the margins of academia til the mid-80’s, and made the astounding prediction that Chaos in the macroscopic world somehow be found to mirror 18

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) Uncertainty in the microscopic or Quantum World, a truth stil unrecognized in “official” scientific circles today. He felt that n-dimensional strange attractors could be used to model the quantum behavior of particles/waves, and that the “so-called collapse of the wave function” could actually be mapped with certain bizarre ramifications of Thom’s catastrophic topology.

Making references to work by Ilya Prigogine which was stil being circulated in private “preprint” or samizdat form at the time, Sohrawardi suggests that

“creative chaos” (as opposed to “deterministic” or entropic chaos) provides the link that wil unify Relativity, Quantum, Complexity and consciousness itself into a new science.

Finally in his “Advanced Seminar on Many Worlds”, he states baldly that the alternative universes predicted by Relativity (Black Hole Theory) are the same as the many worlds predicted by Quantum, are the same as fractal dimensions revealed in Chaos! This one-page course description is the closest thing we have to an explanation of why travel to other worlds actually works.

Hence the Catalogue is an indispensable document for the serious student of the Conspiracy.

10. Beckenstein, J.

“Black holes & Entropy”

(Xerox offprint from Physical Review, Vol. D7, 1973; 28pp) An early (pre-Breakthrough) speculation with suggestive hints about quantum and chaos-as-entropy — although no knowledge of actual Chaos Theory is demonstrated. This paper was referred to in an in-house memo from the Inst. for Chaos Studies & Imaginal Yoga, believed to have been composed by K. Sohrawardi himself (see #9).

11. Sohrawardi, Dr Kamadev.

“Phlogiston & the Quantum Aether”

(Off print from the J. of Paranormal Physics, Vol. XXII, Bombay, 1966)

An early paper by Sohrawardi, flooded with wild speculations about quantum and oriental spirituality, probably dating from the period when he was still working for IBM, but making visits to Milbrook, nearby in Dutchess Co., and participating in the rituals of the League of spiritual discovery under Dr. T Leary, and the psychedelic yoga of Bill Haines' Sri Ram Ashram, which shared Leary's headquarters on a local millionaire's estate. The basic insight concerns the identity of Everett/Wheeler's "many worlds" and the "other worlds" of sufism, tantrik Hinduism and Vajrayana Buddhism. At the time, 19

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) Sohrawardi apparently believed he could "prove" this by reviving the long-dead theories of phlogiston and aether in the light of quantum discoveries!

(Phlogiston Theory — based on the thinking of the sufi alchemist Jabir ibn Hayyan — the original Jabir — was propounded seriously in the 18th century to unify heat and light as "one thing".) Totally useless as science, this metaphor nevertheless inspired Sohrawardi's later and genuinely important work on alternate realities.

12. *ibid.*

“Zero Work & Psychic Paleolithism”

(Dec. 1968); Xerox reprint, single sheet 11 1/2 x 17

Unfortunately no scientific speculations, but a fascinating glimpse into the political background of the inventor of Travel (or rather, one of the inventors). Making reference to French Situationist and Dutch “Provo” ideas which helped spark the “Events” and upheavals of Spring ’68 all over Europe and America, Sohrwardi looks forward to a world without “the alienating prison of WORK”, restored to the “oneness with Nature of the Old Stone Age” and yet somehow based on “green technology and quantum weirdness.”

Wild and wooly as it is, this text nevertheless poses a fascinating scientific question in the light of the author’s later accomplishments — a question still unanswered. All the “First Breakthroughs” we know of with any degree of certainty (those in New York, California, and Java — the actual sequence is unclear) without exception entered parallel worlds without human inhabitants, virtual forest-worlds. Most science fiction predicated other worlds almost like ours. Populated by “us”, with only a few slight differences, worlds “close” to ours. Instead — no people!

Why?

Two possible explanations: (1) We cannot enter worlds containing “copies” of ourselves without causing paradox and violating the consistency principle of the “megaverse” — hence only wild (or feral) worlds are open to Travel. (2) Other worlds exist, in a sense, only as probabilities; in order to

“become fully real” they must be observed. In effect, the parallel universes are observer-created, as soon as a traveller “arrives” in one of them.

Sohrwardi wanted a Paleolithic world of endless forest, plentiful game and gathering, virgin, empty but slightly haunted — therefore, that’s what he got!

Either explanation raises problems in the light of what actually

happened; perhaps there is a third, as yet unsuspected.

13. (Anonymous).

20

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) *Ong's Hat: A Color Brochure of the Institute of Chaos Studies* (photocopy of the original color brochure)

Note — *This is one of the RARE pamphlets from this series that I have been able to procure. It is included in the next chapter of this book.* — *Joseph Matheny* This bizarre document, disguised as a brochure for a New Age health retreat, reveals some interesting information about the activities of Sohrawardi group or a closely-associated group. A fairly accurate description of the Egg is provided, as well as a believable account of the first (or one of the first) Breakthroughs. However, everything else in the pamphlet is sheer disinformation. The New Jersey Pine Barrens were never a center of alternate-worlds research, and all the names in the text are false. A non-existent address is included. Nevertheless, highly valuable for background.

14. "Sven Saxon".

The Stone Age Survivalist

(Loompanics, UnLtd., Port Townsend, WA 1985), Pb

"Imagine yourself suddenly plunked down buck-naked in the middle of a large dark forest with no resources except your mind," says the preface.

"What would you do?"

What indeed? and who could possibly care? — except a transdimensional Travel er! Loompanics specializes in books on disappearances and survival involving a good deal of escapist fantasy — but as we know, this situation is all too real for the Visitor to Other Worlds.

Part I: Flint-knapping, an excellent illustrated handbook of Paleolithic tool-production; II Zero-tech hunting and trapping; III, Gathering (incl. a materia medica); IV, Shelter; V, Primitive warfare; VI, Man

& Dog: trans-species symbiosis; VII, Cold weather survival; VIII, Culture (“Sven” recommends memorizing a lot of songs, poems and stories — and ends by saying “Memorize this book — cause you can’t take it with you”).

Where is “Mr. Saxon” now, we wonder?).

15. Balcombe, Harold S.

Escape From Earth Prime!

(Foursquare Press, Denver, Colo., 1986), Pb

This — unfortunately! — is the book that blew the lid off the Conspiracy for the first time. We say “unfortunately” because ESCAPE!, to all appearances, is a piece of unmitigated paranoid pulp tripe. Written in 21

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) breathless ungrammatical subFortean prose, unfootnoted and nakedly sensationalistic, the book sank without trace, ignored even by the kook-conspiracy fringe; we were able to buy out unsold stock from the vanity press which published it, just before they went out of business and stopped answering their mail.

Balcombe (whom we’ve been unable to trace and who may have

“vanished”), is the author of one other book we’ve seen — but are not offering for sale — called Drug Lords from the Hollow Earth (1984) in which he claims that the CIA obtained LSD and cocaine from Dero-flying-saucer-nazis from beneath Antarctica. So much for his credentials. How he got hold of even a bit of the authentic Other Worlds story is a miracle.

According to Balcombe, the first breakthrough was due not solely to K. Soharawardi — despite his importance as a theoretician — but also

“sinister webwork of cultists, anarchists, commies, fanatical hippies and renegade traitor scientists who made fortunes in the drug trade” (p. 3).

Balcombe promises to name names, and out of the welter of rant and slather, some hard facts about the pioneers actual y emerge.

Funding (and some research) emanated in the 70’s from a “chaos cabal” of early Silicon Valley hackers interested in complex dynamical systems, randomness, and chance, and — gambling! — as well as a shadowy group of “drug lords” (Balcombe’s favorite term of abuse), with connections to certain founders of the Discordian Illuminati. Money was channeled through a cult called the Moorish Orthodox Church, a loose knit confederation of jazz musicians, oldtime hipsters, white “sufis” and black moslems, bikers and street dealers (see “A Heresologist’s Guide to Brooklyn”, #24 in this list) who came into contact with Sohrawardi in Millbrook in the mid-60’s.

Sohrawardi was a naive idealist and somewhat careless about his associations. He received clandestine support from people who were in turn connected to certain Intelligence circles with an interest in psychedelic and fringe mind-science. According to Balcombe this was not the CIA (MK-ULTRA) but an unofficial offshoot of several groups with Masonic connections! The Conspiracy was penetrated almost from the start, but was actually encouraged in the hope of gleaning useful information about parallel worlds, or at least about the “mental conditioning techniques” developed as part of the basic research.

By the mid-70’s, Sohrawardi and his various cohorts and connections (now loosely referred to as “the Garden of Forked Paths” or GFP) had become aware of the Intelligence circles (now loosely grouped as 22

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version)

“Probability Control Force” or PCF) and had in turn planted double-agents, and gone further underground. In 1978 or 79 an actual device for transdimensional Travel, the “Egg” (also called the Cocoon or the Cucurbit, which means both gourd and alchemical flask) was developed in deepest secrecy, probably at Sohrawardi’s institute in Upstate New York, certainly not at a branch lab supposedly hidden

away in the NJ Pine Barrens near the long-vanished village of Ong's Hat (see #13 in this list), since no such lab ever existed, nor does it exist now, despite what some fools think.

The PCF were unable to obtain an Egg for several years and did not succeed in Breakthrough until (Balcombe believes) 1982. The California groups, however, began Egg production and broke through (into "BigSur2") in early 1980 (again, Balcombe's chronology). (Balcombe clearly knows nothing of the situation in Java.)

It remains unclear whether the East Coast and West Coast groups both entered the same alternate world, or two different but similar worlds.

Communication between the two outposts has so far proved impossible because, as it happens, the Egg will not transport non-sentient matter.

Travelers arrive Over There birth — naked in a Stone Age world — no airplanes, no radio, no clothes. .no fire and no tools! Only the Egg, like a diamond Faberge Easter gift designed by Dali, alone in the midst of "Nature natur'g". Balcombe includes a dim out-of-focus photo of an Egg, and claims that the machine is part computer but also partly — living crystal, like virus or DNA, and also partly "naked quantumstuff".

Eggs are costly to produce, so the early pioneers had to return after each sortie and forego permanent settlement on E2 until a cheaper mode of transport could be discovered. However, emigration via the Egg proved possible when the "tantrik" or "double-yolk" effect was discovered: two people (any combination of age, gender, etc.) can Travel by Egg while making love, especially if one of the pair has already done the trip a few times and

"knows the way" without elaborate visualization techniques and so forth.

Balcombe has a field day with this juicy information and spends an entire chapter (VIII) detailing the "perversions" in use for this purpose. Talent for Travel ranges from brilliant to zero — probably no more than 15% of humanity can make it, although the less — talented and even children can be

"translated" — and extensive training methods have somewhat

improved the odds. California2 now contains about 1000 emigrants scattered along the coast, and the eastern settlements add up to 500 or 600. A few children have been born “over there” — some can Travel, some can’t, although the talented percentage seems greater than among the general population of Earth-prime.

And being “stuck” on E2 is no grave punishment in any case!, unless you object to the Garden of Eden and the “original leisure society” of the Paleolithic flintknappers.

23

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) Balcombe claims that the PCF was severely disappointed by the sentence “law” of Travel, since they had hoped to use the parallel worlds as a weapons — delivery system! Nevertheless they continued to experiment, hoping for a more “mechanistic” technique; meanwhile they devote their efforts to (a) suppressing all information leaks, (b) plotting against the independent GFP and infiltrating the E2 settlements, (c) attempting to open new worlds where technology might be possible. They are however handicapped by a shortage of talent: the kind of person who can Travel is not usually the kind of person who sympathizes with the “patriotic discipline of the PCF” and rogue Masonic groups, but some of these end up defecting and “doubling”, and anyway most of them are much too weird for the taste of the rigidly reactionary inner core of PCF leadership, who wonder (as does Balcombe) whether these agents are “any better than the scum they’re spying on?”

More worlds have been discovered — E3 and E4 are mentioned in ESCAPE! (and we know that E5 was opened in 1988) — but all of these are

“empty” forest worlds apparently almost identical with E2.

In summary, Balcombe’s style is execrable and attitude repulsive, but his book remains the most accurate overview of the Conspiracy to date. If you’re only going to order one item from us, this is it.

16. (Anonymous)

“Bionic Travel: An Orgonomic Theory of the Megaverse”

If this paper emanates from PCF sources, as we believe, it indicates the poor quality of original research carried out by the enemies of Sohrawardi and the GFP, and may explain the PCF's relative lack of progress in the field (especially considering their much larger budget!). The author attempts to revive W. Reich's Orgone Theory, with "bions" as "life-force particles" and some sort of orgone accumulator (Reich's "box") as a possible substitute for the Egg. An unhealthy interest is shown in "harnessing the force of Deadly Orgone" as a weapon for use on other worlds. References are also made to Aliester Crowley's "sex magick techniques" of the Ordo Templi Orientis even speculations on human sacrifice as a possible source of

"transdimensional energy". A morbid and crackpot document, devoid of all scientific value (in our opinion) but affording a fascinating insight into PCF

mentality and method.

17. Corbin, Henry.

Creative Imagination in the Sufism of Ibn'Arabi 24

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) (trans. by R. Mannheim; Princeton, NJ, 1969)

One of the few books mentioned by title in the Catalogue of the Inst. of Chaos Studies & Imaginal Yoga (see #9 in this list). The "mundus imaginalis", also called the World of Archetypes or the "Isthmus" (Arabic, barzakh), lies in-between the World of the Divine and the material World of Creation. It actually consists of "many worlds", including two "emerald cities" called Jabulsa and Jabulqa (very intriguing considering the situation on Java2!). The great 14th-century Hispano-Moorish sufi Ibn'Arabi developed a metaphysics of the "Creative Imagination" by which the adept could achieve spiritual progress via direct contemplation of the archetypes, including the domains of djinn, spirits and angels. Ibn'Arabi also speaks of seven alternate Earths created by Al ah, each with its own Mecca and Kaaba! Some parallel-universe theorists believe that Travel without any tech (even the Egg) may be possible, claiming that certain mystics have

already accomplished it. If so, then Ibn'Arabi must have been one of them.

18. Gleick, James.

CHAOS: Making a New Science

(Viking Penguin, NY, 1987) 254pp

The first and still the most complete introduction to chaos —

required reading — BUT with certain caveats. First: Gleick has no philosophical or poetic depth; he actually begins the book with a quote from John Updike! No mention of chaos mythology or oriental sources. No mention of certain non-American chaos scientists such as Rene Thom and Ilya Prigogine! Instead, alongside the admittedly useful info, one gets a subtle indoctrination in “deterministic chaos”, by which we mean the tendency to look on chaos as a weapon to fight chaos, to “save” Classical physics Q and learn to predict the Stock Market! (As opposed to what we call the “quantum chaos” of Sohrawardi and his allies, which looks on chaos as a creative and negentropic source, the cornucopia of evolution and awareness.) Warning: we suspect Gleick of being a PCF agent who has embedded his text with subtle disinformation meant to distract the chaos science community from any interest in “other worlds”.

19. Pak Hardjanto.

“Apparent Collapse of the Wave Function as an n Dimensional Catastrophe”

(trans. by “N.N.S.” in Collected Papers of the SE Asian Soc. for Advanced Research, Vol. XXIX, 1980), 47pp, xerox of offprint An early paper by the little-known scientific director of the Javanese

“Travel Cult” which succeeded in breakthrough, possibly in the year this essay was published or shortly thereafter. Hardjanto is known to have been 25

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) in touch with

Sohrawardi since the 60's; no doubt they shared all information, but each kept the other secret from their respective organizations. The pioneers of Java2 became known to the GFP and PCF only around 1984 or 85.

This article, the only scientific work we possess by Hardjanto, shows him to be a theoretician equal or even superior to Sohrawardi himself — and if Hardjanto is also the anonymous author of the following item, as we believe, then he appears a formidable “metaphysicist” as well!

“Apparent Collapse”, while certainly not a blueprint for Egg construction, nevertheless constitutes one of the few bits of “hard” science published openly on our Subject. Unfortunately, its theorems and diagrams are doubtless comprehensible only to a handful of experts. The topological drawings literally boggle the mind, especially one entitled “Hypercube Undergoing ‘Collapse’ Into 5 — Space Vortex”!

20. (Unsigned, probably by Pak Hardjanto).

A Vision of Hurqalya

(trans.by K. K. Sardono; Incunabula Press, 1988), Pb, 46pp The Indonesian original of this text appeared as a pamphlet in Yogyakarta (E.Java) in 1982. We ourselves at Incunabula commissioned the translation and have published this handsome edition, including all the illustrations from the original, at our own expense.

If one knew nothing about the Conspiracy or Many-Worlds Theory, A Vision would seem at first to be a mystical tract by an adherent of kebatinan, the heterodox sufi influenced freeform esoteric/syncretistic complex of sects which has come to be influential in GFP circles, inasmuch as the idea of “spiritual master” (guru, murshed) has been replaced by

“teacher” (pamong); some kebatinan sects utilize spontaneous non-hierarchical organizational structures.

However, in the light of our knowledge of the material existence of

other worlds, Vision takes on a whole new dimension Q as a literal description of what Hardjanto and his fellow pioneers found on Java2.

They discovered another uninhabited world — but with one huge difference. The author of Vision steps out of his “alchemical Egg” into a vast and ancient abandoned City! He calls it Hurqalya (after a traditional sufi name for the Other World or alam-e-mithal). He senses his total aloneness — feels that the City’s builders have long since moved on elsewhere — and yet that they stil somehow somewhere exist.

The author compares Hurqalya to the ancient ruined city of 26

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) Borobudur in E. Java, but notices immediately that there are no statues or images — all the decoration is abstract and severe — but “neither Islamic nor Buddhist nor Hindu nor Christian nor any style I ever saw”. The

“palaces” of Hurqalya are grand, cyclopean, almost monolithic — far from

“heavy” in atmosphere, despite the black basalt from which they seem to have been carved. For the City is cut through by water. . it is in fact a water-city in the style of the Royal Enclave of Yogyakarta (now so sadly derelict) —

but incomparably bigger. Canals, aqueducts, rivers and channels crisscross and meander through the City; flowing originally from quiescent volcanic mountains looming green in the West. Water flows down through the City which is built on a steep slope gradually curving into a basin and down to the placid Eastern Sea, where a hundred channels flow dark and clear into the green salt ocean.

Despite the air of ruin — huge trees have grown through buildings, splitting them open — mosses, ferns and orchids coat the crumbling walls with viridescence, hosting parrots, lizards, butterflies — despite this desolation, most of the waterworks stil flow: canal-locks broken open centuries ago al ow cascades, leaks, spil s and waterfal s in unexpected places, so that the City is wrapped in a tapestry of water sounds and songbird voices.

Most amazingly, the water flows at different levels simultaneously, so that aqueducts cross over canals which in turn flow above sunken

streams which drip into wells, underground cisterns and mysterious sewers in a bewildering complex of levels, pipes, conduits and irrigated garden terraces which resemble (to judge by the author's sketches) a dreamscape of Escher or Piranesi. Viewed from above, the City would be mapped as an arabesque 3PD spiderweb (with waterbridges aboveground, streams at ground level and also underground) fanning out to fill the area of the basin, thence into the harbor with its huge cracked basalt block docks.

The slope on which the City is built is irregularly terraced in ancient SE Asian style — as many staircases as streets thread their way up and down, laid out seemingly at random, following land contours rather than grid logic, adding to the architectural complexity of the layer of waterways with a maze of vine encrusted overpasses, arched bridges, spiraling ramps, crooked alleyways, cracked hidden steps debouching on broad esplanades, avenues, parks gone to seed, pavilions, balconies, apartments, jungle choked palazzos, echoing gloomy “temples” whose divinities, if any, seem to have left no forwarding address .. all empty, all utterly abandoned. And nowhere is there any human debris — no broken tools, bones or midden heaps, no evidence of actual habitation — as if the ancient builders of the City picked up and took everything with them when they departed — “perhaps to one of the other Seven Worlds of the alam-e-mithal” — in other words, to a “higher dimension.

27

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) Thus ends the Vision of Hurqalya — raising more questions than it answers! There is no doubt that it describes exactly what was discovered in Java2 in 1980 or 81. But if the “observer-created” theory of other-worlds Travel is true, “Hurqalya” represents the “imaginal imprint” of what Hardjanto (or whoever) expected to find. Yet again, if that theory is false ..

who built Hurqalya? One current explanation (arising from time distortion theorems which have so far remained unsolvable) suggests that the Builders

“moved” in prehistoric times to Earth-prime and became the distant ancestors of the Javanese (“Java Man”). Another guess: the Builders have indeed moved on to a “distant” alternate universe, and eventually we may find them.

A small settlement now exists in Hurqalya. Once the American groups

heard of the City's existence, members of both the GFP and PFC

were able to visualize it and Travel to it from America (the Javanese can do the same from Java-prime to America2). Since 1985 al three groups have expanded most of their exploratory effort on "opening up" new worlds in the Java series. Apparently Indonesian sorcerers and trance adepts are very good at this, and we believe they have reached Java7 — without, however, finding replications of the City or any trace of the Builders — only more empty forest.

21. Von Bitter Rucker, Dr R.

"The Cat Was Alive, But Looked Scared As Hell": Some Unexpected Properties of Cel ular Automata in the Light of the Everett-Wheeler Hypothesis"

(Complex Dynamical Systems Newsletter no. 8, 1989),offprint Who is this man and what does he know? No other serious mathematician has so far made any connection between cellular automata and the Many Worlds. Tongue-in-cheek (?), the author suggests that Schroedinger's poor cat might be both alive and dead, even after the box is opened, IF parallel universes are "stacked" in some arcane manner which he claims to be able to demonstrate with a piece of software he has hacked and is selling for an outrageous sum; we have also seen an ad for this program in a magazine cal ed MONDO 2000, published in Berkeley and devoted to

"reality hacking". We'd love to know what certain members of the Conspiracy would make of this bizarre concept!

22. Kennedy, Alison.

"Psychotropic Drugs in 'Shared-World'& Lucid Dreaming Experiments"

(*Psychedelic Monographs & Essays*, Vol. XIV, no. 2, 1981, offprint) This writer appears to have inside information. The notion of a drug-induced hallucination so powerful it can be shared by many (in a proper 28

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version)

“blind” experiment) and can actually come into existence, into material reality; the idea that drug-enhanced lucid dreaming can be used to discover objective information from “other ontological levels of being”; and finally the “prediction” that “a combination of these methods utilizing computer aided biofeedback monitoring devices” will actually make it possible to “visit

‘other’ worlds in ‘inner’ space” (which suggests that the author adheres to the

“observer-created” theory of parallel universes) — all this leads us to believe that the author is probably a member of one of the California Travel Cults

— as well as an expert bruja!

23. (Anonymous).

A Collection of Cult Pamphlets, Flyers, Ephemera & Curiosa from the Library of a Traveler

(Loose-leaf portfolio of photocopied originals) sold by lot The unknown compiler of this Collection (whom for convenience we’ll call “X”) left it behind when he “vanished”, whence it came into our possession. We know something of the compiler’s career from an untitled document written by him and found with the Collection, which we call *The Poetic Journal of a Traveller* (#24 in this list), as well as a pamphlet believed to be by the same author, *Folklore of the Other Worlds* (#25). (The Ong’s Hat Color Brochure was also discovered in the same cache, and is sold by us as #13.)

The Collection contains the following items:

1) *A History & Catechism of the Moorish Orthodox Church*, which traces the origins of the sect to early (1913) American Black Islam, the “Wandering Bishops”, the Beats of the 50s and the psychedelic churches movement of the 60s — deliberately vague about the 70s and 80s however.

2) *The World Congress of Free Religions*, a brochure — manifesto arguing for a “fourth way”, a non-authoritarian spiritual movement in

opposition to mainstream, fundamentalist and New Age religion. The WCFR is said to include various sects of Discordians, SubGeniuses, Coptic Orthodox People of the Herb, gay (“faery”) neo-pagans, Magical Judaism, the Egyptian Church of New Zealand, Kaos Kabal of London, Libertarian Congregationalists, etc.

Q and the Moorish Orthodox Church. Several of these sects are implicated in the Conspiracy, but no overt mention of the Travel Cults is made here.

3) *Spiritual Materialism*, by “the New Catholic Church of the Pantarchy, Hochkapel von SS Max und Marx”, a truly weird flyer dedicated to “Saints” Max Stirner and Karl Marx, representing a group claiming foundation by the 19th century Individualist Stephen Pearl Andrews, but more likely begun in the 1980s as a Travel Cult. Uses Nietzsche to contend 29

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) that material reality itself constitutes a (or the) spiritual value and the principle of Infinity “which is expressed in the existence of many worlds. ” It argues for a utopia based on “individualism, telepathic socialism, free love, high tech, Stone Age wilderness and quantum weirdness”! No address is given, needless to say.

4) *The Sacred Jihad of Our Lady of Chaos*, this otherwise untraceable group calls for “resistance to all attempts to control probability.” It quotes Foucault and Baudrillard on the subject of “disappearance”, then suggests that “to vanish without having to kill yourself may be the ultimate revolutionary act .. The monolith of Consensus Reality is riddled with quantum-chaos cracks . . Viral attack on all fronts! Victory to Chaos in every world!”

5) *The Temple of Antinous*, a Travel Cult of neo-pagans devoted to Eros and Ganymede. (Warning: this leaflet contains some just-barely-legal graphic material.) “Wistfully we wonder if the boygod can manifest only in some other world than this dreary puritanical polluted boobocracy — then, gleefully, we suddenly recall : there ARE other worlds!”

6) A Collage, presumably made by X himself, consisting of a “mandala” constructed from cut-outs of Strange Attractors and various

Catastrophic topologies interwoven with photos of young women clipped from Italian fashion magazines. Eroticizing the mathematical imagery no doubt helps one to remember and visualize it while operating the Egg.

24. (Anonymous).

Poetic Journal of a Travel er; or, A Heresologist's Guide to Brooklyn (Incunabula Press, pamphlet, Believed to be by "X", the compiler of the Collection, & transcribed by us from manuscript.) Apparently X began this MS with the intention of detailing his experiences with a Travel Cult and eventual "translation" to the various alternate-world settlements, but unfortunately abandoned the project early on, possibly due to PCF interference.

It begins with a summary account of X's spiritual quest, largely among the stranger sects of his native Brooklyn: Santeria in Coney Island, Cabala in Williamsburg, sufis on Atlantica Avenue, etc. He is disappointed or turned away (and even mugged on one occasion). He becomes friendly with a Cuban woman of mixed Spanish, black, amerindian and Chinese ancestry who runs a botanica (magical supplies and herbs). When he asks her about

"other worlds", she is evasive but promises to introduce him to someone who knows more about such matters.

She orders her grand-daughter, a 14-year-old named Teofila (see the 30

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) graphic novel, page 160 of this book for a rendition of Teofila by artist Tony Talbert), to escort X through the "rough neighborhoods" to the old man's shop. The girl is wearing a t-shirt that says "Hyperborean Skateboarding Association", and indeed travels by skateboard, "gliding on ahead of me like Hermes the Psychopomp." X is clearly attracted to Teofila and becomes embarrassedly tongue-tied and awkward.

The old man, called "the Shaykh", who claims to be Sudanese but speaks "pure Alabaman", runs a junk shop and wears a battered old Shriners fez. His attitude toward X is severe at first, but X is enchanted by his rather disjointed rambling and ranting — which reveal a

surprisingly wide if erratic reading in Persian poetry, the Bible, Meister Eckhardt, William Blake, Yoruba mythology and quantum mechanics. Leaving the girl in the shop, the old man takes X into his back office, “crowded with wildly eclectic junk, naive paintings, cheap orientalismo, HooDoo candles, jars of flower petals, and an ornate potbellied stove, stoked up to cherryred, suffusing waves of drowsy warmth.”

The Shaykh intimidates X into sharing a big pipe of hashish mixed with amber and mescaline, then launches into a stream-of-consciousness attack on “Babylon, the Imperium, the Con, the Big Lie that there’s nowhere to go and nothing to buy except their fifth-rate imitations of life, their bul shit pie-in-the-sky religions, cold cults, cold cuts of self-mutilation I call ‘em, and woe to Jerusalem!” X, now “stoned to the gills”, falls under the Shaykh’s spell and bursts into tears. At once the old man unbends, serves X a cup of tea

“sweetblack as Jamaica run and scented with cardamon”, and begins to drop broad hints about “a way out, not to some gnostic-never-land with the body gone like a fart in a sandstorm, no brother, for the Unseen World is not just of the spirit but also the flesh Q Jabulsa and Jabulqa, Hyperborea, Hurqalya Q they’re as real as Brooklyn but a damn sight prettier!”

Late afternoon; X must return home before dark, and prepare to take leave of the Shaykh Q who gives him a few pamphlets and invites him to return. To X’s surprise, Teofila is still waiting outside the shop, and offers to escort him to the subway. The girl is now in a friendlier mood and X less nervous. They strike up a conversation, X asking about Hyperborea and Teofila answering, “Yeah, I know where it is — I’ve been there.”

The main narrative ends here, but we have added some other poetic fragments included with the original MS, despite the fact that they might offend some readers, in light of the importance of the “tantrik technique” of other-world Travel. (And let us remind you that a statement of age must be included with every order from Incunabula Inc.). These rather pornographic fragments suggest that X, too shy to attempt anything himself, was in fact seduced by Teofila, and that his subsequent “training” for Egg-navigation 31

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) consisted of numerous “practice sessions for double-“yolking” with a very enthusiastic young

tutor.

We believe that X subsequently made an extended visit to America2 and Java2, that he returned to Earth-prime on some intelligence or sabotage mission for the GFP, that he composed a paper on Folklore of the Other Worlds (see #25), that he and Teofila somehow came to the attention of PCF

agents in New York, aborted their mission and returned to Java2, where they presumably now reside.

25. (Anonymous).

Folklore of the Other Worlds

(Incunabula Press, pamphlet, By the same author as #24, transcribed by us from manuscript.)

Our anonymous Traveller from Brooklyn appears to have composed this little treatise after his first extended stay in E2. It deals with tales of Travellers and inhabitants of the other-world settlements, pioneers' experiences and the like. Of great interest is the claim that ESP and other paranormal abilities increase in the parallel universes, that the effect is magnified by passing through the series of discovered "levels", and that a small band of psychic researchers has therefore settled on Java7, the present frontier world. The "temple" of Hurqalya (or whatever these vast buildings may have been) are used for sessions of meditation, martial arts and psychic experimentation. X claims that telepathy is now accepted as fact "over there,"

with strong evidence for telekinesis and perhaps even Egg-less Travel.

Also intriguing are various accounts of "spirits" seen or sensed around the settlements, were-animals supposedly glimpsed on higher levels, and legends which have arisen concerning the lost Builders of Hurqalya.

Something of a cult has grown up around these hypothetical creatures who (it is said) are "moving toward us even as we move toward them,

through the dimensions, through Time — perhaps backwards through Time”!

X points out that this legend strikes an eerie resonance with

“complex conjugate wave theory” in quantum mechanics, which hypothesizes that the “present” (the Megaverse “now”) is the result of the meeting of two infinite quantum probability waves, one moving from past to future, the other moving from future to past — that space/time is an interference effect of these two waves — and that the many worlds are bubbles on this shoreline!

26. Eliade, Mircea.

Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy

32

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) (Univ. of Chicago Press), Pb

This “bible” of the modern neo-shamanic movement also served as a metaphorical scripture for the pioneers of interdimensional consciousness physics and alternate-world explorers. Not only does it contain innumerable practical hints for the Traveler, as well as a spiritual ambience conducive to the proper state of mind for Travel — it is also believed that Eliade’s mythic material on the prototypal Stone Age shamans who could physically and actually visit other worlds, offers strong evidence for the possibility of Eggless Travel — which however so far remains in the realm of “folklore”, speculation and rumor.

27. Lorde, John.

Maze of Treason

(Red Knight Books, Wildwood, NJ, 1988), Pb, 204 pp You may remember that after the Patty Hearst kidnapping it was discovered that a cheap pornographic thriller, published before the event, seemed to foretell every detail of the story. Jungian synchronicity? Or did the

Symbioses Liberation Army read that book and decide to act it out? It remains a mystery.

Maze of Treason is also a pornographic thriller, complete with tawdry 4-color cover, sloppy printing on acidulous pulp, and horrendous style. It's marketed as Science Fiction, however. And there is no mystery about the author's inside knowledge. "John Lorde" not only knows about the Conspiracy, he's obviously been there. This book is probably a roman à clef, as it appears to contain distorted portraits of Sohrawardi and Harjanto (depicted as Fu-Manchu-type villains) as well as several actual agents of both the GFP and PCF — and even a character apparently based on the real-life

"X", author of several titles in our list (#s 24 & 25).

The hero, Jack Masters, is an agent of an unnamed spyforce of American patriots who jokingly call themselves the Quantum Police. Their mission is to regain control of the alternate worlds for "the forces of reason and order" and "make trouble for agents of chaos in every known universe."

The Q-Cops' secret underground HDQ contains a number of Eggs granting access to hidden bases on the other worlds, including "the Other America"

and "the Other Indonesia".

Jack Masters is investigating the activities of a Chaote named Ripley Taylor, a "child-molester and black magician" who runs a Travel Cult out of a comic book store in a "racially mixed neighborhood" of New York. The Cops hope to catch Taylor with his "juvenile delinquent girlfriend", blackmail him and turn him into a double agent.

33

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) The hero now becomes involved with Amanita, a beautiful woman performance artist from the Lower East Side who seems to know a lot about Taylor and the Travel Cult, but also seems quite attracted to the virile Jack Masters. At first he suspects her of duplicity, but soon decides he needs to

"convert" her by making her "fall for me, and fall hard. " Jack's

problem is that his own “talent” will not suffice for solo Travelling, and in fact he has never managed to “get across” — since the Cops do not practice Tantrik techniques! He suspects her of being an “Other-Worlder” and hopes she can convey him thence via the “infamous ‘double -yolk’ method.”

Meanwhile Taylor has laughed off the blackmail attempt, burned down the comic shop and escaped “into the fourth dimension — or maybe the fifth.” Masters heats up his affair with the artist Amanita, and finally convinces her to “translate” him — after three chapters of uninterrupted porno depicting the pair in many little-known ritual practices, so to speak.

(The author rises above his own mediocrity here, and attains something like

“purple pulp”, an inspired gush of horny prose, especial y in the oral-genital area.) Masters now rises to the occasion for yet a fourth chapter in which a

“government-issue Egg” becomes the setting for a “yab-yum ceremony of searing obscenity. ”

Immediately upon arrival in “Si Fan” (the author’s name for Hurqalya), Amanita betrays our hero and turns him over naked to one of the tribes of “chaos-shamans who inhabit these Lemur Ian ruins”. At this point Maze begins to add to our knowledge of the real-life situation by depicting more-or-less accurately the state of affairs and mode of life in present-day Hurqalya — at least, as seen through the eyes of a paranoid right-wing spy.

The thousand or so inhabitants have made few changes in Hurqalya, preferring a life of “primitive sloth” and minimal meddling with Nature. Sex, hallucinogenic mushrooms and song improvisation contests comprise the nightlife, with days devoted to the serious business of “sorcery, skinny-dipping, flint knapping and maybe a couple of hours of desultory fishing or berry picking.” There is no social order. “People with bones in their noses sitting around arguing about Black Hole Theory or recipes for marsupial stew

— lazy smoke from a few clan campfires rising through the hazy bluegold afternoon — people masturbating in trees — bees snouting into orchids —

signal drum in the distance — Amanita singing an old song by the Inkspots I remember from my childhood...”

Masters — or rather the author — claims to be disgusted by all this “anarchist punk hippy immorality — al this jungle love!” — but his ambivalence is revealed in his continued desire for Amanita, and the ease with which he falls into his own curmudgeonly version of dolce far niente in

“Si Fan”.

34

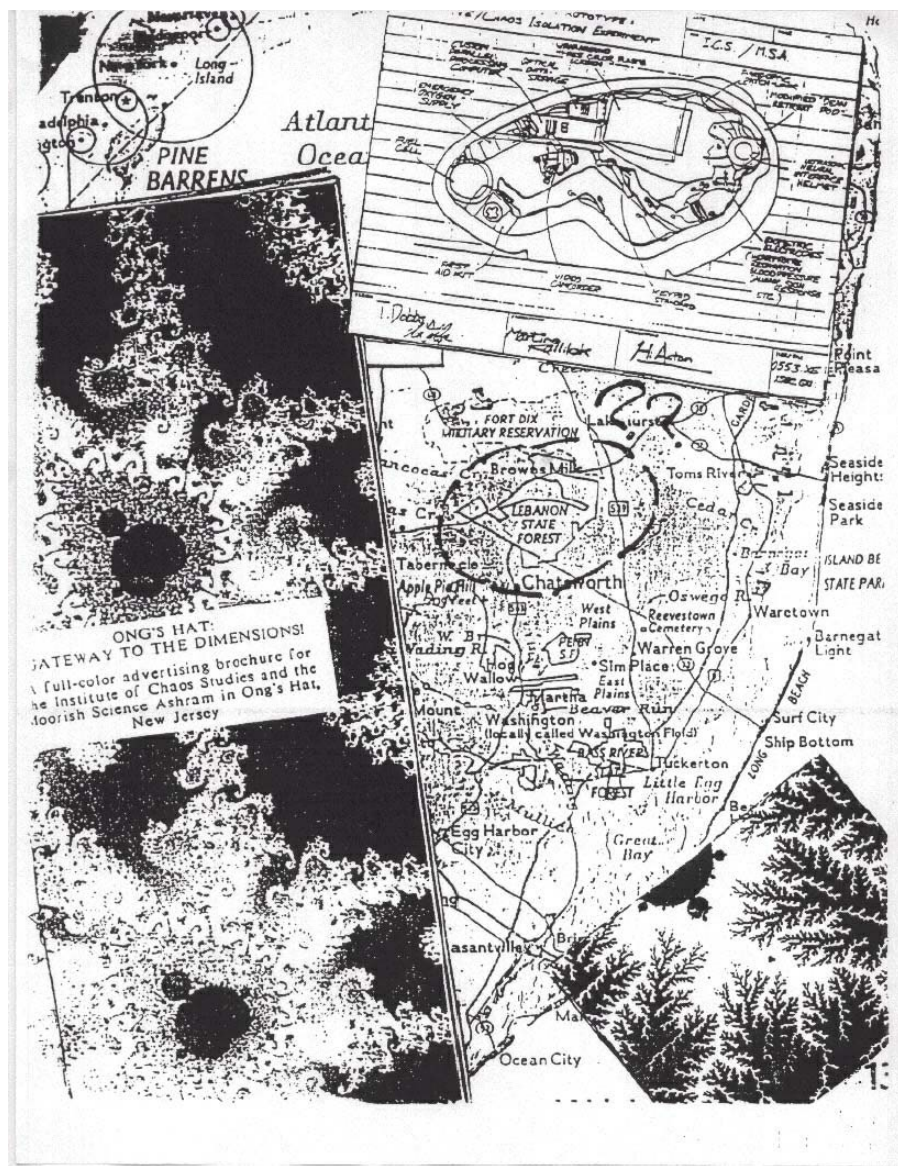
Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) We won’t give away the rest of the plot, not because it’s so great, but because it’s largely irrelevant (Taylor flees to distant dimensions, Masters gets Girl and returns to Earth-prime in triumph, etc., etc.) — the book’s true value lies in these pictures of daily life in Hurqalya. Sadly, Maze of Treason is stil our only source for such material.

The Conspiracy to deny the world all knowledge of the Many Worlds is maintained by both the forces active in the parallel universes — the GFP

and PCF both have their reasons for secrecy, evasion, lies, disinformation, distortion and even violence. Maze of Treason is not our only source for claiming that people have lost their lives as a result of getting too deeply involved in all this. But we at INCUNABULA believe that truth wil out, because it must. To stand in the way of it is more dangerous than letting it loose. Freedom of information is our only protection — we wil tel al , despite all scorn or threat, and trust that our “going public” wil protect us from the outrage of certain private interests — if not from the laughter of the ignorant!

Remember: parallel worlds exist. They have already been reached. A vast cover-up denies YOU all knowledge. Only INCUNABULA can enlighten you, because only INCUNABULA dares.

Thank You,



Stylized cover of the brochure

GATEWAY TO THE DIMENSIONS!

A full-color brochure for the Institute of Chaos Studies and the Moorish Science Ashram in Ong's Hat, New Jersey

Introductions

You would not be reading this brochure if you had not already penetrated half-way to the ICS. You have been searching for us without knowing it, following oblique references in crudely Xeroxed marginal

"samisdat" publications, crackpot mystical pamphlets, mailorder courses in

"Kaos Magick" — a paper trail and a coded series of rumors spread at street level through circles involved in the illicit distribution of certain controlled substances and the propagation of certain acts of insurrection against the Planetary Work Machine and the Consensus Reality — or perhaps through various obscure mimeographed technical papers on the edges of "chaos science" — through pirate computer networks — or even through pure synchronicity and the pursuit of dreams.

In any case we know something about you, your interests, deeds and desires, works and days — and we know your address.

Otherwise.. you would not be reading this brochure.

Background

During the 1970s and '80s, "chaos" began to emerge as a new scientific paradigm, on a level of importance with Relativity and Quantum Mechanics. It was born out of the mixing of many different sciences —

weather prediction, Catastrophe Theory, fractal geometry, and the rapid development of computer graphics capable of plunging into the depths of fractals and "strange attractors; hydraulics and fluid turbulence, evolutionary biology, mind/brain studies and

psychopharmacology also played major roles in forming the new paradigm.”

The slogan “order out of chaos” summed up the gist of this science, whether it studied the weird fractional-dimensional shapes underlying swirls of cigarette smoke or the distribution of colors in marbled paper-or else dealt with “harder” matters such as heart fibrillation, particle beams or population vectors.

However, by the late ‘80s it began to appear as if this “chaos 37

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) movement” had split apart into two opposite and hostile world-views, one placing emphasis on chaos itself, the other on order.

According to the latter sect — the Determinists — chaos was the enemy, randomness a force to be overcome or denied. They experienced the new science as a final vindication of Classical Newtonian physics, and as a weapon to be used against chaos, a tool to map and predict reality itself. For them, chaos was death and disorder, entropy and waste.

The opposing faction however experienced chaos as something benevolent, the necessary matrix out of which arises spontaneously an infinity of variegated forms — a pleroma rather than an abyss — a principle of continual creation, unstructured, fecund, beautiful, spirit of wildness.

These scientists saw chaos theory as vindication of Quantum indeterminacy and Godel’s Proof, promise of an open-ended universe, Cantorian infinities of potential. . chaos as health.

Easy to predict which of these two schools of thought would receive vast funding and support from governments, multi-nationals and intelligence agencies. By the end of the decade, “Quantum/Chaos” had been forced underground, virtually censored by prestigious scientific journals — which published only papers by Determinists.

The dissidents were reduced to the level of the margin — and there they found themselves part of yet another branch of the paradigm, the underground of cultural chaos — the “magicians” — and of political

chaos-extremist anti-authoritarian “mutants”.

Unlike Relativity, which deals with the Macrocosm of outer space, and Quantum, which deals with the Microcosm of particle physics, chaos science takes place largely within the Mesosphere — the world as we experience it in “everyday life”, from dripping faucets to banners flapping in the autumn breezes. Precisely for this reason useful experimental work in chaos can be carried on without the hideous expense of cyclotrons and orbital observatories.

So even when the leading theoreticians of Quantum/Chaos began to be fired from university and corporate positions, they were still able to pursue certain goals. Even when they began to suffer political pressures as well, and sought refuge and space among the mutants and marginals, still they persevered. By a paradox of history, their poverty and obscurity forced them to narrow the scope of their research to precisely those areas which would ultimately produce concrete results — pure math, and the mind — simply because these areas were relatively inexpensive.

Up until the crash of '87, the “alternative network” amounted to little more than a nebulous weave of pen-pals and computer enthusiasts, 38

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) Whole Earth nostalgists, futurologists, anarchists, food cranks, neo-pagans and cultists, self-publishing punk poets, armchair schizophrenics, survivalists and mail artists. The Crash however opened vast but hard-to-see cracks in the social and economic control structures of America. Gradually the marginals and mutants began to fill up those fissures with the wegs of their own networking. Bit by bit they created a genuine black economy, as well as a shifting insubstantial “autonomous zone”, impossible to map but real enough in its various manifestations.

The orphaned scientists of Q/C theory fell into this invisible anti-empire like a catalyst — or perhaps it was the other way around. In either case, something crystallized. To explain the precipitation of this jewel, we must move on to the specific cases, people and stories.

History

The Moorish Orthodox Church of America is an offshoot of the Moorish Science Temple, the New World's first Islamic heretical sect, founded by a black circus magician named Noble Drew Ali in Newark, New Jersey in 1913. In the 1950s some white jazz musicians and poets who held

“passports” in the M.S.T. founded the Moorish Orthodox Church, which also traced its spiritual ancestry to various “Wandering Bishops” loosely affiliated with the Old Catholic Church and schisms of Syrian Orthodoxy.

In the '60s the church acquired a new direction from the Psychedelic Movement, and for a while maintained a presence at T. Leary's commune in Millbrook, New York. At the same time the discovery of Sufism led certain of its members to undertake journeys to the East.

One of these Americans, known by the Moorish name Wali Fard, travelled for years in India, Persia, and Afghanistan, where he collected an impressive assortment of exotic initiations: Tantra in Calcutta, from an old member of the Bengali Terrorist Party; Sufism from the Owayssi Order in Shiraz, which rejects all human masters and insists on visionary experience; and finally, in the remote Badakhshan Province of Afghanistan, he converted to an archaic form of Ismailism (the so-called Assassins) blended out of Buddhist Yab-Yum teachings, indigenous shamanic sorcery and extremist Shiite revolutionary philosophy-worshippers of the Umm-al-kitab, the

“Matrix Book.”

Up until the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the reactionary orthodox “revolution” in Iran, Fard carried on trade in carpets and other well-known Afghan exports. When history forced him to return to America in 1978, he was able to launder his savings by purchasing about 200 acres of land in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Around the turn of the decade he moved 39

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) into an old rod & gun club on the property along with several runaways from Paramus, New Jersey, and an anarchist lesbian couple from Brooklyn, and founded the Moorish Science Ashram.

Through the early-to-mid-'80s the commune's fortunes fluctuated (sometimes nearly flickering out). Fard self-published a series of Xeroxed

"Visionary Recitals" in which he attempted a synthesis of heretical and antinomian spirituality, post-Situationist politics, and chaos science. After the Crash, a number of destitute Moors and sympathizers began turning up at the Ashram seeking refuge. Among them were two young chaos scientists recently fired from Princeton (on a charge of "seditious nonsense"), a brother and sister, Frank and Althea Dobbs.

The Dobbs twins spent their early childhood on a UFO-cult commune in rural Texas, founded by their father, a retired insurance salesman who was murdered by rogue disciples during a revival in California.

One might say that the siblings had a head start in chaos — and the Ashram's *modus vivendi* suited them admirably. (The Pine Barrens have often been called "a perfect place for a UFO landing.") They settled into an old Airstream trailer and constructed a crude laboratory in a rebuilt barn hidden deep in the Pines. Illegal sources of income were available from agricultural projects, and the amorphous community took shape around the startling breakthroughs made by the Dobbs twins during the years around the end of the decade.

As undergraduates at the University of Texas the siblings had produced a series of equations which, they felt certain, contained the seeds of a new science they called "cognitive chaos." Their dismissal from Princeton followed their attempt to submit these theorems, along with a theoretical/philosophical system built upon them, as a joint PhD thesis.

On the assumption that brain activity can be modeled as a "fractal universe," an *outré* topology interfacing with both random and determined forces, the twins' theorems showed that consciousness itself could be presented as a set of "strange attractors" (or "patterns of chaos") around which specific neuronal activity would organize itself. By a bizarre synthesis of mandelbrot and Cantor, they "solved the problem" of *n*-dimensional attractors, many of which they were able to generate on Princeton's powerful computers before their hasty departure. While realizing the ultimately indeterminate nature of these "mind maps," they felt that by attaining a thorough (non-intuitive and intuitive) grasp of the actual shapes of the attractors, one

could “ride with chaos” somewhat as a “lucid dreamer” learns to contain and direct the process of REM sleep. Their aborted thesis suggested a boggling array of benefits which might accrue from such links between cybernetic processes and awareness itself, including the exploration 40

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) of the brain’s unused capacities, awareness of the morphogenetic field and thus conscious control of autonomic functions, mind-directed repair of tissue at the cellular/genetic level (control over most diseases and the aging process), and even a direct perception of the Heisenbergian behavior of matter (a process they called “surfing the wave function”). Their thesis advisor told them that even the most modest of these proposals would suffice for their expungement from the Graduate Faculty — and if the whole concept (including theorems) were not such obvious lunacy, he would have reported them to the FBI as well.

Two more scientists — already residents of Ong’s Hat — joined with Fard and the twins in founding the Institute of Chaos studies. By sheer

“chance” their work provided the perfect counterparts to the Dobbs’ research. Harold Acton, an expatriate British computer — (and reality —) hacker, had already linked 64 second-hand personal computers into a vast ad-hoc system based on his own I Ching oriented speculations. And Martine Kallikak, a native of the Barrens from nearby Chatsworth, had set up a machine shop.

Ironically, Martine’s ancestors once provided guinea pigs for a notorious study in eugenics carried out in the 1920s at the Vineland NJ State Home for the Insane. Published as a study in “heredity and feeble-mindedness,”

the work proclaimed poverty, non-ordinary sexuality, reluctance to hold a steady job, and enjoyment of intoxicants as proofs of genetic decay — and thus made a lasting contribution to the legend of bizarre and lovecraftian Piney backwoods people, incestuous hermits of the bogs. Martine had long since proven herself a bricoleuse, electronics buff and back-lot inventor of great genius and artistry. With the arrival of the Dobbs twins, she discovered her true ‘metier’ in the realization of various devices for the implementation of their proposed experiments.

The synergy level at the ICS exceeded all expectations. Contacts with other underground experts in various related fields were maintained by

“black modern” as well as personal visits to the Ashram. The spiritual rhythms permeating the place proved ideal: periods of dazed lazy contemplation and applied hedonics alternating with “peak” bursts of self-overcoming activity and focused attention. The hodgepodge of “Moorish Science” (Tantra, sufism, Ismaili esotericism, alchemy and psychopharmacology, bio-feedback and “brain machine” meditation techniques,etc.) seemed to harmonize in unexpectedly fruitful ways with the

“pure” science of the ICS.

Under these conditions progress proved amazingly swift, stunning even the Institutes founders. Within a year major advances had been made in all the fields predicted by the equations. Somewhat more than three years 41

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) after founding there occurred the breakthrough, the discovery which served to re-orient our entire project in a new direction: the Gate.

But to explain the Gate we must retrace some step, and reveal exactly the purposes and goals of the ICS and Moorish Science Ashram — the curriculum upon which our activities are based, and which constitutes our *raison d’etre*.

The Curriculum

The original and stil ultimate concern of our community is the enhancement of consciousness and consequent enlargement of mental, emotional and psychic activities. When the Ashram was founded by W. Fard the only means available for this work were the bagful of oriental and occultist meditational techniques he had learned in Central Asia, the first-generation “mind machines” developed during the ’80s, and the resources of exotic pharmacology.

With the first successes of the Dobbs twin’s research, it became obvious to us that the spiritual knowledge of the Ashramites could be

re-organized into a sort of preparatory course of training for workers in

“Cognitive Chaos.” This does not mean we surrendered our original purpose

— attainment of non-ordinary consciousness — but simply that ICS work could be viewed as a prolongation and practical application of the Ashram work. The theorems allow us to re-define “self liberation” to include physical self-renewal and life-extension as well as the exploration of material reality which (we maintain) remains one with the reality of consciousness. In this project, the kind of awareness fostered by meditational techniques plays a part just as vital as the techne’ of machines and the pure mentation of mathematics.

In this scenario, the theorems — or at least a philosophical understanding of them — serve the purpose of an abstract icon for contemplation. Thus the theorems can be absorbed or englobed to the point where they become part of the inner structure (or “deep grammar”) of the mind itself.

In the first stage, intellectual comprehension of the theorems parallels spiritual work aimed at refining the faculty of attention. At the same time a kind of psychic anchor is constructed, a firm grounding in celebratory body-awareness. The erotic and sensual for us cannot be ritualized and aimed at anything “higher” than themselves — rather, they constitute the very ground on which our dance is performed, and the atmosphere or taste which permeates our whole endeavor.

We symbolize this first course of work by the tripartite Sanskrit term satchitananda, “Being/consciousness/bliss” — the ontological level 42

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) symbolized by the theorems, the psychological level by the meditation, the level of joy by our “tantrik” activity.

The second course (which can begin at any time during or after the first) involves practical instruction in a variety of “hard sciences”, especially evolutionary biology and genetics, brain physiology, Quantum Mechanics and computer hacking. We have no need for these disciplines in any academic sense — in fact our work has already overturned many existing paradigms in these fields and

rendered the textbooks useless for our purposes — so we have tailored these courses specifically for relevance to our central concern, and jettisoned everything extraneous.

At this point a Fellow of the ICS is prepared for work with the device we call the “egg.” This consists of a modified sensory-deprivation chamber in which attention can be focused on a computer terminal and screen.

Electrodes are taped to various body parts to provide physiological data which is fed into the computer. The explorer now dons a peculiar helmet, a highly sophisticated fourth-generation version of the early “brain machines,”

which can sonically stimulate brain cells either globally or locally and in various combinations, thus directing not only “brain waves” but also highly specific mental-physical functions. The helmet is also plugged into the computer and provides feedback in various programmed ways.

The explorer now undertakes a series of exercises in which the theorems are used to generate graphic animations of the “strange attractors”

which map various states of consciousness, setting up feedback loops between this “iconography” and the actual states themselves, which are in turn generated through the helmet simultaneously with their representation on the screen. Certain of these exercises involve the “alchemical” use of mind-active drugs, including new vasopressin derivatives, beta-endorphins and hallucinogens (usually in “threshold” dosages). Some of these tinctures are simply to provide active-relaxation and focused-attention states, others are specifically linked to the requirements of “Cognitive Chaos” research.

Even in the earliest and crudest stages of the egg’s development the ICS founders quickly realized that many of the Dobbs twins’ PhD thesis predictions might be considered cautious or conservative. Enhanced control of autonomous body functions was attained even in the second-generation version, and the third provided a kind of bathysphere capable of “diving”

down even to the cellular level. Certain unexpected side-effects included phenomena usually classified as paranormal. We knew we

were not hallucinating all this, quite bluntly, because we obtained concrete and measurable results, not only in terms of “yogic powers” (such as suspended animation, “inner hear,” lucid dreaming and the like) but also in observable benefits to health: rapid healing, remission of chronic conditions, absence of 43

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) disease.

At this point in development of the egg (third generation) the researchers attempted to “descend” (like Sci-Fi micronauts) to the Quantum level.

Perhaps the thorniest of all Quantum paradoxes involves the

“collapse of the wave function” — the state of Schroedinger’s famous cat.

When does a wave “become” a particle? At the moment of observation? If so, does this implicate human consciousness in the actual Q-structure of reality itself? By observing do we in effect “create?” The ICS team’s ultimate dream was to “ride the wave” and actual y experience (rather than merely observe) the function-collapse. Through “participation” in Q-events, it was hoped that the observer/observed duality could be overcome or evaded.

This hope was based on rather “orthodox” Copenhagenian interpretations of Quantum reality. After some months of in-tensive work, however, no one had experienced the sought-for and expected “moment”...

each wave seemed to flow as far as one cared to ride it, like some perfect surfer’s curl extending to infinity. We began to suspect that the answer to the question “when?” might be “never!”

This contingency had been described rigorously in only one interpretation of Q-reality, that of J. Wheeler — who proved that the wave function need never collapse provided that every Q-event gives rise to an

“alternating world” (the Cat is both alive and dead).

To settle this question a fourth generation of the egg was evolved and

tested, while simultaneously a burst of research was carried out in the abstruse areas of “Hil bert space” and the topology of n-dimensional geometry, on the intuitive assumptions that new “attractors” could thereby be generated and used to visualize or “grok” the transitions between alternate universes.

Again the ICS triumphed. . although the immediate success of the fourth-generation egg provoked a moment of fear and panic unmatched in the whole history of “Cognitive Chaos.”

The first run-through of the “Cat” program was undertaken by a young staff-member of great brilliance (one of the original Paramus runaways) whose nickname happened to be Kit — and it happened to take place on the Spring Equinox. At the precise moment the heavens changed gears, so to speak, the entire egg vanished from the laboratory.

Consternation would be a mild term for what ensued. For about seven minutes the entire ICS lost its collective cool. At that point however the egg reappeared with its passenger intact and beaming. . like Alice’s 44

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) Cheshire Cat rather than Schroedinger’s poor victim.

He had succeeded in riding the wave to its “destination” — an alternate universe. He had observed it and — in his words — “memorized its address.” Instinctively he felt that certain dimensional universes must act as “strange attractors” in their own right, and are thus far easier to access (more “probable”) than others. In practical terms, he had not been dissolved but had found the way to a “universe next door.”

The Gateway had been opened.

Where is Ong’s Hat?

According to Piney legend, the vil age of Ong’s Hat was founded sometime in the 19th century when a man named Ong threw his hat up in the air, landed it in a tree and was unable to retrieve it (we like to think it vanished into another world). By the 1920s all traces of

settlement other than a few crumbling chimneys had faded away. But the name appealed so much to cartographers that some of them retained it — a dot representing nothing in the midst of the most isolated flat dark scrub-pines and sandy creeks in all the vast, empty and perhaps haunted Barrens.

W. Fard's acreage lies in the invisible suburbs of this invisible town, of which we are the sole inhabitants. You can find it easily on old survey maps, even trace out the the old dirt road leading into the bogs where a little square represents the decrepit "Ong's Hat Rod & Gun Club," original residence. However, you might discover that finding the ICS itself is not so simple.

If you compare your old survey map with the very latest, you will note that our area lies perilously close to the region infamous in recent years, the South Jersey Nuclear Waste Dump near Fort Dix. The "accident" that occurred there has made the Barrens even more empty and unpopular, as any hard-core Pineys fled the pollution melting into the state's last untouched wilderness. The electrified fence shutting off the deadly zone runs less than a mile above our enclave.

The Accident occurred while we were in the first stages of developing the fourth-generation egg, the Gate. At the time we had no idea of its full potential. However all of us, except for the very youngest (who were evacuated), had by then been trained in elementary self-directed generation. A few tests proved that with care and effort we could resist at least the initial onslaught of radiation sickness. We decided to stick it out, at least until "the authorities" (rather than the dump) proved too hot to endure.

Once the Gate was discovered, we realized the situation had been saved. The opening and actual interdimensional travel, can only be effected 45

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) by a fully trained "cognitive chaote;" so the first priority was to complete the course for all our members. A technique for "carrying" young children was developed (it seems not to work for adult "non-initiates"), and it was discovered that all inanimate matter within the egg is also carried across with the operator.

Little by little we carted our entire establishment (including most of the buildings) across the topological abyss. Unlike Baudelaire who pleaded,

“Anywhere! — so long as out of this world!” we knew where we were going.

Ong’s Hat has indeed vanished from New Jersey, except for the hidden laboratory deep in the backwoods where the gate “exists.”

On the other side of the Gate we found a Pine Barrens similar to ours but in a world which apparently never developed human life. Of course we have since visited a number of other worlds, but we decided to colonize this one, our first Newfoundland. We still live in the same scattering of weather-gray shacks, Airstream trailers, recycled chicken coops, and mailorder yurts, only a bit more spread out — and considerably more relaxed.

We’re still dependent on your world for many things — from coffee to books to computers — and in fact we have no inclination of cutting ourselves off like anchorites and merely scampering into a dreamworld. We intend to spread the word.

The colonization of new worlds — even an infinity of them — can never act as a panacea for the ills of Consensus Reality — only as a palliative.

We have always taken our diseases with us to each new frontier. . . everywhere we go we exterminate aborigines and battle with our weapons of law and order against the chaos of reality.

But this time, we believe, the affair will go differently — because this time the journey outward can only be made simultaneously with the journey inward-and because this bootstrap-trick can only be attained by a consciousness which, to a significant degree, has overcome itself, liberated itself from self-sickness-and “realized itself.”

Not that we think ourselves saints, or try to behave morally, or imagine ourselves a super-race, absolved from good and evil. Simply, we like to consider ourselves awake when we’re awake, sleeping when we sleep. We enjoy good health. We have learned that desire demands

the other just as it demands the self. We see no end to growth while life lasts, no cessation of unfolding, of continual outpouring of form from chaos. We're moving on, nomads or monads of the dimensions. Sometimes we feel almost satisfied...

at other times, terrified.

Meanwhile our agents of chaos remain behind to set up ICS courses,
46

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) distribute Moorish Orthodox literature (a major mask for our propaganda) to subvert and evade our enemies. . We haven't spoken yet of our enemies.

Indeed there remains much we have not said. This text, disguised as a sort of New Age vacation brochure, must fall silent at this point, satisfied that it has embedded within itself enough clues for its intended readers (who are already halfway to Ong's hat in any case) but not enough for those with little faith to follow.

CHAOS NEVER DIED!

47



SCIENCE:

QUANTUM TANTRA

AN INTERVIEW WITH NICK HERBERT BY JOSEPH

MATHENY

“It’s always gooiest before it solidifies”- Beverly’s Ovation, Beverly Rubik Ph.D

“Quantum Tantra is not just another way to get high using common objects you can find around the house.. Caution: Practising Q.T. before you understand Bell’s Theorem of interconnectiveness is like walking into the Amazon jungle without a map.”- Alternate Dimensions, Jbir ibn Hayyan **Journal entries**

October 13, 1992

I finally get a line on INCUNABULA. Following a lead from a culture-jamming club in San Francisco, I arrive in the small New Jersey town of Ong’s Hat. The address that I have for INCUNABULA is a P.O. Box.

The local postmaster/general store operator was very helpful. Almost too helpful! He told me that Cranston and INCUNABULA books had fled the area one night about a month ago. I gained access to Cranston’s P.O. box key while the owner had his back turned and returned later to examine the contents. Al I found inside were overdraft notices from his bank and some solicitations from a church of geniuses in Dallas, Texas or some such nonsense. Another dead end.

October 14, 1992

I arrive in New York City, get a room, restock supplies and think. I call New Jersey information to get the phone number for the Ong’s Hat general store and post office so I can ask the postmaster a few more questions. I am told by the inbred boob on the other end of the line that there is no such town listed in New Jersey, and after a long and heated debate, we terminate the phone call by mutually insulting each

other's gene pool.

God, I hate the phone company.

October 16, 1992

Two days (and two bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label) later, I 49

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) finally get a lead on one of the most intriguing authors listed in the INCUNABULA catalogue, Nick Herbert, author of *Quantum Reality, Faster Than Light: Superluminal Loopholes in Physics*, and of course, the legendary *Alternate Dimensions*. Herbert was a former SDI scientist turned renegade researcher. His past areas of renegade research involved pleasure dome technologies, Quantum Tantra (the Egg Yoke method), Time and Dimensional travel theories, and gelatinous substances.

I'll give you a little background on *Alternate Dimensions* (A.D.). It was written in 1989 by Herbert, but was suppressed by the publisher, Harper & Row, for unexplained reasons in 1990 (see INCUNABULA & INCUNABULA 3).

INCUNABULA was offering bound, uncorrected galley copies for \$100.00 each, or at least they were, until Cranston disappeared with the whole kit-n-kaboodle. In A.D., it seems that Herbert gave away the inner secrets of a Tantric-dimensional travel cult based in northern California. Using techniques that combined Herbert's own theory of Quantum Tantra, and hardware technology, consisting of an egg-shaped craft of some sort, members of the cult were able to penetrate into other dimensions. There were also intense visualization techniques, and Tantric-Egg-Yoke postures involved, but the Xerox copy I had purchased from MediaKaos seemed to be missing some of the key technical portions.

Herbert was now hiding out in the backwater town of Boulder Creek, CA, deep in the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains. I hopped aboard a plane to San Jose, and drove a rental car up to Boulder Creek. About a mile away from Herbert's farm house, I called him on my cellular phone.

Surprisingly enough, Herbert was very cordial, and agreed to meet me

in town for lunch and conversation. He suggested Adelita's Mexican Cantina, gave me directions, and promised to meet me there in an hour. I drove into town and went over my notes while I waited.

About an hour later, Dr. Herbert appeared in the parking lot driving a electric Stutz Bearcat kit car. I recognized him instantly from his jacket photos, even with the recently acquired beard. Was he attempting to change his appearance? Was he preparing to flee, like Cranston had 30 days ago? I casually reached into my jacket and activated my pocket recorder. I waved him over to my table, and after shaking hands we settled down to a lunch of Dos Equis and Gorditas.

"Okay," I said, after some pleasantries about the weather, "let's start with the obvious question: What is Quantum Tantra?"

"Well, psychology has used a lot of classic metaphors to explain the mind, like the hydraulic metaphor of urges building up, and even when 50

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) repressed, they'll find some way to spurt out to the surface. We're told that releasing your repressions will relieve the pressure, and you'll become healthy.

That's a very classical metaphor. Now we have this marvelous new way of thinking called quantum mechanics, and it seems right to use these metaphors to explain human behavior. So, what's the most interesting human behavior of all? Sexual, of course. That's the idea, to use quantum mechanical metaphors to explore sexuality, to look at it through the lens of quantum physics. I would consider Q.T. successful if we could find new things to do that never would have been thought, of using the old metaphors. I mean, of course, pleasant things (laughter). The core idea of Q.T. stems from Heisenberg's statement that "atoms are not things." So, Q.T. naturally extrapolated that statement into "well then people are not things, either."

People are not things in the same way that atoms are not things."

"What are things?" I asked

"Things are entities that have attributes, whether you look at them or not. They're big, they're solid and such. You can list their attributes.

Non-things, or Quantum objects, like atoms or molecules, don't have attributes.

They are basic y clusters of oscillating possibilities, the possibilities not even being well-defined. It might reward us to look that way at people, as oscillating possibilities."

He took a long draw off his Dos Equis, and signaled the waiter for another.

"So, try and think of what the essence of quantum theory is," he continued. "Three adjectives: randomness, thinglessness, and interconnectiveness. Randomness I associate with the spontaneity that is within people. Uncertainty is the very essence of romance. It's what you don't know that intrigues you."

"Now, thinglessness is even more renunciatory," he went on. "The notion of treating people like possibilities rather than fixed structures is a healthy one, I think."

"Interconnectiveness is the most fantastic feature of Q.T. Things are connected in the quantum world in such a way that only did we not think of it before the discovery of quantum mechanics, but I don't think we could have thought this way at all. It's so strange. The terrestrial belief system that comes the closest to quantum connectiveness is Voodoo."

"Sympathetic magick?" I queried. This was getting good.

"Yes, sympathetic magick," he replied.

"Of course, the Voodoo conception is naive in comparison to Q.T.'s connectiveness. In Voodoo, you do something like burn someone's hair to 51

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) give them a headache. The Quantum connection isn't that crude. It has more to do with timing. In the Quantum world, you burn someone's hair, and maybe they miss an appointment. The Newtonian world view emphasized control over the world, whereas, the Quantum world view doesn't

emphasize control so much as timing. You could say that the Newtonian view emphasized force, where the Quantum world emphasizes finesse.”

“One analogy is ordinary steerable dish radar versus phased array antennae. Steerable dish physically moves the whole antenna structure. In the phased array antennae, you have a whole array that are all fixed. None of them move, but by changing the timing on these antennae, you get a virtual antenna that’s pointed in any direction. That’s an example of finesse, rather than force. Quantum connection is like that. It is set up like Voodoo by having something that the other person has interacted with, some sympathetic object.”

“But what does this have to do with sex?” I asked.

Herbert was quick to answer. “I’m getting to that. In Q.T., the Tantra part has to do with sex as well as religion. Every religion has their symbol. The Christians have the cross, Islam has the crescent and star, the Pagans have the pentagram, the wheel for Buddhism, and so forth. Q.T. has it’s symbols, also. One of them is this fork.”

He picked up a salsa-encrusted fork, and stared at it rapturously.

“It reminds us to see the world as possibilities,” he continued. “In the Newtonian world, starting from now, only one thing could happen. Q.T.

sees the future as open possibilities, like the tines of this fork. Actual y, if this fork were fuzzy, like Man Ray’s fuzzy cup and spoon. .”

I was beginning to understand. That or the Dos Equis was kicking in. I felt lightheaded.

“So the borders would not quite be defined. .” I replied.

“Yes,” he said, eyes twinkling in the candlelight. “The possibilities are defined only by your intentions, by how you construe the moment.

Quantum possibilities are not quite as defined as dice possibilities

even. With a die, only one of six numbers will come up, whereas with Quantum possibilities, it depends on how you look at the moment, and that again, is part of thinglessness. All of these elements have resonances in popular literature. Like the talk of the inexplicable chemistry that occurs between two people, or this notion of 'it's bigger than both of us'. The type of connectivity that's possible in quantum theory allows two connected entities to be in indefinite states, but allows the couple itself to be in a definite state! The mathematics on this are clear. As Heisenberg said, 'quantum theory has 52

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) changed our way of thinking completely,' and it's changed in such a way that it didn't dissolve into some unclear fuzzy fog but into this absolute clarity of a new mathematics. Now, the mathematics describes the fog in a very precise way. So, it's this kind of very precise unclarity."

"You're talking like a lot of mystics I know!" I scoffed.

He replied laughing, "Except, this is found in ordinary physics! This is stuff that was discovered 75 years ago. It's not new stuff at all. It's only now beginning to permeate popular culture. So, we have this system where each member of the pair, say, a man and a woman, or a man and a man, or a woman and a woman, or whatever, are defined. They've gotten themselves into a state where their individualities are not as clear, but the couple itself as an entity, is better defined than the individual members of the set. We use symbols, like the fork, to remind ourselves of these things, because the human mind is not yet used to thinking in parallels."

"Our data rate is miniscule compared to say, television data rates equivalent to megabits per second, or telephones, which are equivalent to thousands of kilobits per second. Morse code is about 10 bits per second, and that's pretty close to our attention rate! I mean, when we're not on robot, when we do come to attention, we don't bring much to this moment in terms of quantity. It's been estimated at about 16 bits a second. So, people need simple graphic symbols, like the fork, or the cross, or the crescent, to remind themselves that they're Moslems, or whatever. So, one symbol I've invented to epitomize Randomness, Thinglessness and Interconnectiveness is the trinity of White, Hot and Sticky. White corresponds to Thinglessness, Hot to Randomness, and Sticky to Interconnectiveness. By white, I mean like white light, all the colors together, all human sexual

potentials. Thinglessness is wrought with possibilities. As David Finklestein, the inventor of quantum logic said, 'We are all white light, in the sense that we are all possibilities.' Hot has to do with newness, spontaneity that we can bring to the moment to remind us that the moment can be ever new. That's a hard thing to live up to sexual y, and otherwise. Sticky, of course, typifies the new kind connectiveness. A metaphor for achieving stickiness are objects that you break in two and each partner keeps one half. The fracture is unique, that I wil only match one other person in the whole world! Quantum objects help to enhance this two-person white, hot, sticky state. And music is the connection in this technology."

"Why music?" I asked.

"Because, these possibilities are vibratory," he answered. "In the physical world, every atom, or possibility is vibrating at a certain frequency.

The higher the energy level, the higher the frequency or pitch of the vibrations. We can't hear, smell, see, or taste any of these vibrations except 53

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) indirectly. I'm doing more research with solid state technology, sound sequences."

"Ok, now what about Alternate Dimensions, the egg craft, the travel cults, Tantric-Yoke techniques, I mean, what about all this stuff!" I finally blurted, unable to hold back any longer.

"Young man, I have no idea what you're talking about. Al I can say is there are some questions that you should not ask directly, and some answers that may come as a result of finesse over force."

"This interview is now concluded."



55

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) JOSEPH MATHENY
INTERVIEWS THE ELUSIVE

EMORY CRANSTON

Journal entry 1/23/94

After interviewing Nick Herbert and being stuck with the check for lunch, I discovered that Mr. Herbert had scribbled a phone number on the back of the receipt before leaving. It was a New Jersey exchange. I recognized it almost instantly, and underneath it, the letters E.C. were scrawled. Finally, a lead! This had to be the phone number for none other than Emory Cranston, proprietor of INCUNABULA books. So, Cranston was still on Earth Prime, and accessible by phone. I went back to my motel room and dialed the number.

[ring]

[ring]

EC: Hel o?

JM: Hi, is this Emory Cranston?

EC: Who wants to know?

JM: My name is Joseph Matheny. I got your phone number from Nick Herbert. I'm a reporter investigating the Ong's Hat story, and I thought you might give me some insight into where you came across all the material in INCUNABULA. I got the catalogue from a group of Culture Hackers in San Francisco.

(silence)

Is this Emory Cranston?

EC: Who did you say you were again?

JM: A freelance investigative reporter doing a story on the travel cults and the Ong's Hat Institute.

EC: And who gave you this phone number?

JM: Nick Herbert. I was trying to find out where INCUNABULA is located now.

EC: (Audible sigh on other end of line) Oh, well. At least he could have warned me. But it doesn't really matter... after all, there's no "here" here anyway, so I won't be here tomorrow. Does that answer your first question?

56

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **JM:** You mean INCUNABULA is located in "virtual space"?

EC: As far as you're concerned, yes.

JM: Well, in the introduction to the INCUNABULA catalogue, you stated that you had uncovered ". . . a conspiracy so deep that no other researcher has yet become aware of it (outside of certain intelligence circles, needless to say) .. " Is that still true? Why hasn't this become a more popular conspiracy theory? How did you come across this information?

EC: No, it's no longer true. Since I published the catalogue, everything has changed. Everything! And look, this is no longer a "theory."

I admit, when I first published, I really didn't know jack-shit about anything.

Yes, I was a "conspiracy theorist", how pathetic! Let me ask you, what kind of epistemological black hole. . . I mean, if the conspiratologists "know"

anything it wouldn't be a "theory" anymore, would it? It'd be "fact." Who killed Kennedy? Where are the UFOs from? They don't "know", do they?

JM: You have answers to these questions?

EC: Pal, I've got lots of answers! Alternative answers. Get it? But that's not important. You ask why "my theory" isn't better known or more

“popular”? Why aren’t they discussing it at UFO conferences, eh? Why isn’t it on TV? Wel , there’s an easy answer to that. The truth is never popular, and it’s never seen on TV! You know in your heart I’m right about this don’t you? If you think about what’s really important to you, you’ll realize it’s not popular and it’s never been seen on TV (or if it has... well then I’m sorry for you). It’s true, when I first came across the information.. I was living in Chatsworth, in the Pine Barrens, near Ong’s Hat.. I was doing a catalogue..

Tesla, Reich, Bioshamanics, Hollow Earth, crop circles, Mae Brussel . . that sort of thing. Strange stories were circulating about the Institute out at Ong’s Hat. They wouldn’t talk to me. Then they disappeared. That’s when I got

“real y” interested and began col ecting the literature. A few years later, I published the catalogue to see if they’d get in touch with me. I wanted to flush them out. I wanted to know.

JM: So what happened?

EC: Let’s just say I succeeded in stirring the shit beyond my wildest expectations. You know, most conspiratologists would die of shock if they suddenly received proof that their theories were real. You’ll notice that not one UFO “expert” has ever been abducted. And not one Kennedy-Conspiracy nut has ever been assassinated. These things happen to other people, not to Conspiracy Theorists, right? Wel , let’s just say. . that’s what I mean when I say.. this isn’t a “theory” anymore.

JM: Do you feel endangered in anyway, being so outspoken about 57

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) info that has obviously gotten some people kil ed? How do you deal with the danger? What precautions have you taken? Why are you talking to me for example?

EC: Why am I talking to you? There are reasons. . reasons you don’t really need to know. Just go ahead and do what ever you intend to do.

Publish. But be careful. At this point, the cat’s out of the bag, as Alice Schroedinger’s would say (laughs). I doubt they.. I don’t think anyone would bother anymore.. it’s gone so far beyond that. Now, as to my state of savvy when I published the INCUNABULA catalogue.. you

know how conspiracy buffs like to pretend they're running a great risk. . that hidden forces wil try to silence them, blah blah. So buy my stuff now, before it's too late, etc., etc.

Not one of them real y believes it. I didn't believe it. I was extremely fortunate. The catalogue fel into the right hands. . just about five minutes before it fell into the wrong hands. I was contacted. I was protected. Literally whisked away. In the nick of time. Next question, please.

JM: But...

EC: No no no. Read the catalogue. Think about it. Chances are you'l figure it out. You were smart enough to find this phone number, after all. That's why I'm talking to you. Next question.

JM: Ok. How many books have you sold? How many people do you think you've convinced?

EC: I'm not really running the catalogue anymore. It can't be suppressed-it's out there, it's circulating. But I'm not selling the books now.

Those who need the books, get the books. I don't need the money, after all.

Those who can really read the catalogue and figure out the next step.. well, not everything in INCUNABULA is accurate, of course. But the clues are there. Follow the garden of forking paths. Ah, how many, you ask? I can tell you exactly. The answer is precisely 16 people have followed the thread so far. We're aware of another dozen or so who are working on it. At a certain point in their researches they'l be helped. . if possible. One may blunder, you see. Some tracks lead to the Minotaur, know what I mean? And some of those dozen or so are working for the wrong people. They won't be helped.

JM: How did you obtain the more "esoteric" material, like Alternate Dimensions by "Jabir ibn Hayaan" aka Nick Herbert?

EC: Oh, Alternate Dimensions can hardly be called one of the more

“esoteric” titles in the list. After all, Herbert was still a Theorist when he wrote it. The book is actually wrong on a number of points, though quite brilliant as an approach. The fact is, I tracked down Dr. Herbert when I was assembling the catalogue. I’d read his other work and realized he must be heading in the right direction. At first he wouldn’t talk to me at all. He 58

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) suspected I was an agent of whatever Shadowy Forces were trying to suppress the book and succeeding. From various angry remarks he dropped I was able to piece together the story. His manuscript and files had been stolen right out of his house, and the publishers refused to return their copies or any of the page proofs. They were stonewalling him. So I.. well, I stole it.

JM: What?

EC: I went to the publisher. I had a very strong intuition as to which group was blocking publication. I posed as an agent of that group. Apparently I was correct, and it seems I knew enough to convince the publisher of my bona fides so to speak. He was so glad to hand over the book you’d’ve thought it was a bomb! Later he was fired. I suppose he’s lucky to be alive, the schmuck. I copied the proofs and returned the originals to Dr. Herbert.

He agreed to let me list it. After all, it was the only way his work was ever going to be distributed. Of course it’s a moot point now. I mean, the book is seriously out-of-date and there’s not going to be a revised edition.

JM: Well, it’s obvious that you’ve been in contact with some of the travel cult members. Can you tell me who?

EC: That would be telling.

JM: Aw, come on! This is not turning out to be much of an interview.

EC: Nonsense, young man. What I’m giving you is gold, pure gold.

All right, then. . . would it surprise you to hear that you’ve already met a fair number of “cult members”? The heiress in the Berkeley Hills

who knows al about Tarantula venom? That Irish humorist who lives in James Joyce's Martello tower in Howth, outside Dublin? The aging psychedelic guru... the so called Persian Anarchist.. the so called Satanic rock-star. . the Montana cowboy-secret-agent-hacker. . the cyberpunk Sci-Fi Surrealist...

JM: No! They would've told me...

EC: Guess again.

JM: I believe you're... you're disinforming me here, Mr. Cranston.

EC: Check it out.

JM: I wil .

EC: Do. Next question.

JM: Um, ok. Uh.. what new information have you come across since the catalogue was published? What new developments have there been in this

“science” of travel?

59

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **EC:** I can't really tell you that. “Cult member” means nothing now.

Al the players know who the other players are. I'm not giving anything away.

But.. new developments on the tech end? No. Certain people could gain an edge just from a vague description.. well, I can tell you a few things. A paper came out right after my catalogue, so it's not listed, but everyone knows about it by now. It's by Suhrawardi. It's called Not the Egg, the Joke, a bad pun on yoga. Eggless travel has become S.O.P. for advanced Travellers. Some permanent doorways have been constructed which work even for non-initiates, sort of like The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. They're very nicely camouflaged. Fu

Manchu couldn't do better. And, of course, they're guarded.

JM: Raiders of the Lost Ark. .

EC: Eh? Oh yes. . booby trapped. Definitely. It's a zero-sum game I'm afraid. Either you're on the bus or you're not on the bus. The Gateways. .

that's what we call them. The Gateways have to be there for those few who, shall we say, solve the catalogue without any help from any group. People that smart do exist — I have to admit I wasn't one of them! I compiled the catalogue and even I didn't "get it" ! But people who are capable of such..

such quantum jujitsu, are people we need. For them the Gateways aren't guarded, but protected. As for the others who might somehow locate the transnational nexi. . well, you know who I mean..

JM: No, who?

EC: The Tri-Lateral Commission! Read the catalogue! Figure it out!

Who knows? Maybe you'll need to know one of these days.

JM: Is the secret government still active in this area, and if so what do they hope to achieve?

EC: Are you implying that because a "liberal" regime has taken over from a "conservative" regime that you people are free of "secret government"? Haven't you heard of the present leader's fascination with

"virtual reality"? Where do you suppose power comes from, an "Invisible College" of "Il uminati"? (I use the terms metaphorically, of course.) Nothing has changed. . only gotten hotter. In Baghdad. . no, forget I said that. Scratch that. Dump the whole file. Next?

JM: Hmmm, ok. Have you been to Earth2 or any of the other

"worlds" and is this where you've been hiding?

EC: Well, no harm in telling you I suppose. Yes, in fact I've been spending quite a lot of time in Java2. It's not even a security thing anymore, really. Or not always. The truth is that, well, you can't possibly imagine a whole world for a utopia, complete with flora, fauna, picturesque ruins, and 60

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) maybe, oh, ten people per square continent. Fresh air ! That alone is enough to.. a universe next door, let's go! (was it e.e.cummings who said that?) **JM:** And if that one gets too crowded?

EC: Precisely. A number of Davy Crockett types have already

"moved on" where they can't see the smoke of their neighbors fires, to put it mildly. We have no idea of the extent of the Series it may be "infinite" for all practical (or impractical) purposes.

JM: Why not just tell everybody, then?

EC: Would you want to be responsible for infecting the halls of infinity with, say the L.A. Police? Do you think the Pentagon deserves infinity? And what if it isn't infinite, etcetera?

JM: Who were the occupants of Java2, that left behind the ruins?

EC: Well, that's the biggest news of all real y. We found them — or rather they've found us. They claim to be an alternative evolutionary branch of Homo Sapiens through H. Javanensis and H. Neanderthalensis. They look like they're descended from lemurs rather than chimps, like us. A bit like the characters from Javanese shadow puppet plays. They discovered how to travel long ago, in a time we might think of as the time of Atlantis or Mu (only we would be wrong.) It's all rather Lovecraftian in as much as they claim to be responsible for certain aspects of human culture, aspects which are uncanny but not maleficent. Not only in Java — the Tuatha de Danaan of Ireland who vanished "underground", and other "faery" and "hollow earth" clues. . the whole idea of another physical world, not a heaven or hell, but a Magickal universe next door. . anyway, we were wrong about them travelling in time, either fast forward or backward. They simply set out to explore the Series. They think it may be endless, and some decided to return

“home” to Java2. They’re a completely non-hierarchic segmentary society, like primitive hunter/gatherers, but with a highly evolved culture. A lot of Terrans have completely “converted” to their way of life, even their language.

You should hear their music! The returnees brought back some of their artifacts and... well, “furniture,” I guess you’d call it. Their ancestors built a city during a “High Civilization” period in their history, but they rejected hard technology for cognitive sciences long ago. Our travel techniques are crude by comparison and lacking their whole mythopoetic value system. We’re planning soon to release certain archival material here in Earth Prime, certain bits of art and music which we expect to act in a viral fashion to produce profound paradigm shifts. The traveller’s culture is now, I believe, our most effective “weapon”.

JM: So what’s your bottom line — is this al co-creative or what?

61

Ong’s Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **EC:** A smartass question.

JM: No, really.

EC: Who can say? What about our own cosmic locale, our own provincial reality? You can’t make it go away by ceasing to believe in it. “Give me a place to stand and I’ll move the world” but there is no noplacelace, no “outside” vantage point, from which to challenge consensus reality.

“Magick” is notoriously difficult and vague, and terribly incremental — the utopian imagination seems futile. Reforms of consciousness appear to fail, unless they implement the emergence of new ruling classes or elites.

“Religion” is a perfect case in point. But was religion the cause of “civilization” or the effect? Now... however, you see... it’s a whole new game.

There is an “outside” now, maybe an infinite number of outsides, places to stand with a lever in one hand and a magic mushroom in the

other. The dispossessed have always believed in a millennium, a magical resistance, a heaven on earth, a world turned upside down. This is it. Well, time's up.

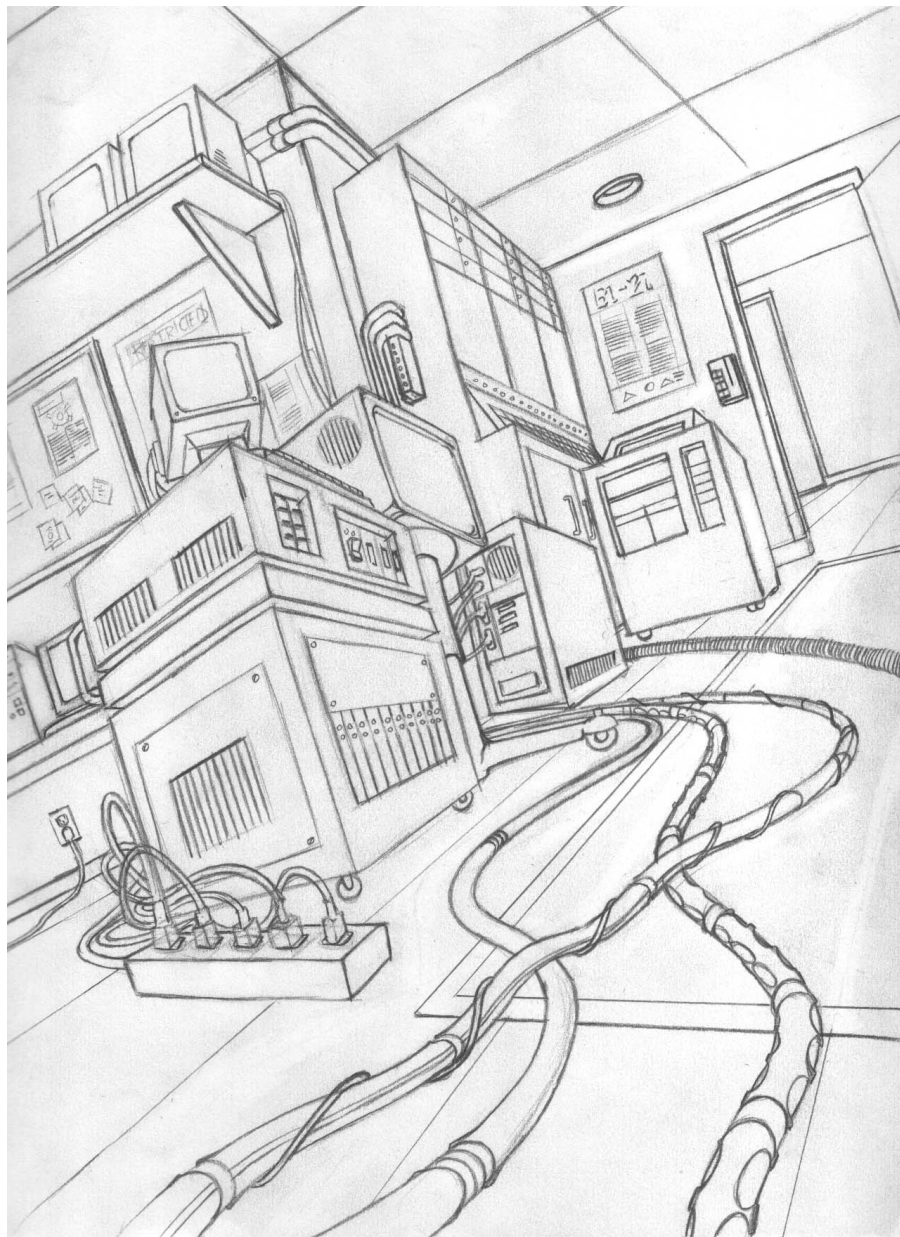
JM: I had a million more questions. In fact...

EC: This phone number and address will become inoperative. Don't call us, we'll call you. And don't worry. The Reality check is in the mail.

[click]

(**JM's note:** the phone was indeed disconnected the next day, and the premises it was registered to vacated with no forwarding address left)

62



This a transcript of an interview that I did via a phone call on 03-16-00, with two purported survivors of the original Ong's Hat Ashram.

A link to a recording of this interview can be found in the chapter of this book, titled: List of Free Digital Resources.

I was put into contact with the two fellows in question by Emory Cranston back in 1998.

Rupert Bigsby and Abel Saastamoinen (not their real names I'm sure) are both very paranoid, cantankerous, and cagey.

Whether or not they are who they claim to be, or just another in a long line of diversions sent to me by Cranston remains to be seen.

If nothing else, these two serve as a wonderful study in dissociative identity disorder, as is so often the case with the people who surround this phenomenon known as Ong's Hat.

Like moths to the flame, this material attracts the most bizarre, eccentric, and often brilliant minds from all walks of life.

Who is to say what's real, what's imagined, and what's interdimensional bleed over on the frequency commonly referred to in this space time coordinate as "insanity."

Not me, that is for sure.

After three canceled interviews and one disconnect (where the transcript begins), this is what transpired one cold winter night on my phone.

Returning after Able gets cut off:

Rupert: —every time I try to talk to him over the phone I get cut off. It's very suspicious. I wouldn't trust him for a second.

JM: Well, I did an interview with some so-called reporter back in August of last year, and the same thing happened where, right when I was giving out some information, the phone circuits went dead and when I tried to call her back, actually, all I got was, "Circuit busy, circuit busy," for, like, an hour.

Rupert: For crying out loud, it's the year 2000. I mean, this kind of stuff

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) shouldn't be going on, you know what I mean? I'm very suspicious about all this. This is something. . Now, Abel and I don't discuss this that often, but this is a rare instance in which we've both agreed to talk again over the phone and, you know? I don't know. That's all I have to say.

JM: Abel, before you got cut off.... Are you there?

Abel: Yeah.

JM: Okay, he's there. Before you got cut off, I was actually doing a round-robin of questions, and I wanted to ask you when you were on the Ong's Hat Ashram, and you guys were kids, I know, but did you actually, physically see one of the travel devices known as an Egg that was supposedly was housed at the Ong's Hat Ashram?

Abel: I did. I didn't know—I knew it was—

Rupert: For crying out loud!

Abel: —supposed to fuck with or anything.

JM: Uh huh.

Abel: It was sort of, ah—

JM: It was off-limits to the kids?

Abel: Not off-limits per se. I mean, nobody would shoo us away per se, but it was very, uh, from what I—

Rupert: For crying out loud, Abel!

Abel: From what I knew then, this was very much sort of out in the open; it was, like, very low key. Everybody knew about it. Nobody really talked about it. Nobody really felt it was— they didn't really hide it. I don't remember there being much of a security issue around it.

JM: Right. So you were there during the military invasion, attack, intervention, whatever you want to call it?

Abel: Yeah, yeah. For most of it.

JM: Yeah, wel now, what we've heard so far is that some nondescript helicopters appeared; some cables came out; some soldiers came down.

They were carrying weapons

and flamethrowers. They were basically there to eradicate something.

Obviously, they've done a really good job of eradicating a lot of evidence that there was even an

ashram there. I know that most of the buildings there were actually Airstream trailers and things like that, so that wouldn't be too hard to do, 65

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) but I know that there were some structures there. I've actually been there and seen some of the foundations of some of the structures that are left behind. You know you have to kind of go digging around for them, but...

Abel: Yeah.

JM: What do you think was the purpose of that— that attack.

Abel: Wel , did you ask Mr. Bigsby yet?

JM: Yeah, I did. He went into it a little bit, just briefly described it. I can tell that he's a little perturbed right now that you're a little more open about some things than he was, so—....

Rupert: Wel , I don't know about that. I mean, so now that the Egg's hatched, so to speak, I mean, I guess we might as wel , you know, we might as wel let everyone in — what is it, Danish? No, Denmark?

Abel: Mr. Bigsby is a little bit younger than me if I remember.

Rupert: That's not true. I'm 33 years old. You understand I'm 33 years old.

I was the one that was the leader of the youth group back then. You understand.

Abel: Yeah, but I wasn't in the youth group if you remember. I kind of...

Rupert: He keeps changing the story every time we do these kinds of interviews.

Abel: I don't feel as protective talking about the Egg stuff because I don't feel that anyone's really— It was real y a side thing for me there. It wasn't real y—

Rupert: Yeah, go on, Abel. Go on with your story. Yeah, that's fine.

Abel: —more dogmatic people seem to have at this point.

JM: Wel , okay, so you've got a different perspective. Maybe it seems like you were a little more detached from the purpose of the ashram. I mean, you were a kid.

Abel: Maybe I can get into it a little later, but like the attack, I definitely remember. It was pretty bad, and I don't think it was just my perception of it being, you know, that I was stil under ten at the time, seven, eight, nine, I don't exactly remember. But it was a pretty bad attack by anybody's standards, I think, and the helicopters were the thing I remember because we heard them - I heard them, out playing - for a good ten minutes before they actually arrived. So that was something that stuck in my mind—

JM: So there were a lot of them?

66

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **Abel:** Yeah. Yeah, there's a lot of them, and they were pretty. . they weren't just, you know, your traffic helicopters, they were pretty high-grade military.

They were heavy-duty, looked like they could move a lot of troops or a lot of equipment around.

Rupert: —just ain't true.

Abel: And the thing I remember about the soldiers - or troops; I don't know if you could call them soldiers; they weren't dressed quite like normal soldiers. But it felt like they - and again, perceptions of a kid change, you know, over time. I don't know if I'm remembering this right. But even though they were, like, mostly, like, Caucasian, I didn't get the impression that they were American or that they even spoke English, which was a strange thing.

JM: It's almost like it was a NATO force or a UN force.

Abel: It had that feel like it was— I always thought about that and thought that it was foreign troops that came in, that may be no American troops wanted to a sort of action like that, or maybe it was easier to cover up, or maybe, you know, it wasn't violating

whatever Geneva Conventions there are, you know. It's all very

strange.

Rupert: Let's just put it outright in the open right now. Let's just get it out in the open. The whole reason that thing happened in the first place was these people were tipped off. I mean,

we all know that. Come on now.

Abel: Who's tipped off?

Rupert: These people, these soldiers were tipped off. Where were they from? I don't know.

Abel: Yeah, they were tipped off; I mean, they don't just fly around looking for small —

Rupert: Yeah, but the fact of the matter is, I mean, they weren't tipped off by the US government. They were tipped off by somebody else.

Abel: Yes, by the US government. You'd have to be a moron not to come to that conclusion in the first second. But the point is, is that they weren't a US force, I don't think. It was like they brought in United Nations soldiers, like maybe they

said, "Hey, Russia, we'll attack a village for you if you send these soldiers over here and attack some of our people." That's kind of what it seemed like to me. I don't know if that happened.

67

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **Rupert:** These people just— they did not speak English well. Yes, that's true.

Abel: No, but they were mostly white, you know? They looked like, until you got close and saw the uniforms and saw the more European features and the non-English speaking, you knew something was strange.

Rupert: They were definitely not Danish; let me tell you right now. They were definitely not Danish.

JM: Did they have any kind of unusual insignia, or did they have any insignia on

their uniforms?

Abel: I remember that most didn't, but some, some did. They seemed to have something to do with stars, sort of a design, like red stars on black.

But I don't really know what the stars meant. It wasn't a written language that I could, like, remember. Unless it was something that was symbols that I didn't know was a language.

JM: Right.

Rupert: From my understanding, it's just very similar to foot troops, secret foot

troops from the old uniform of the Soviet Union army kind of uniform.

Abel: The uniform, you mean?

Rupert: Yeah, that's right.

Abel: They were. They definitely did seem Russian, which was weird, that not only were they foreign troops but that they were wearing another foreign uniform.

Abel: Yeah, yeah, that's true. I mean, it seemed like they attack in units that kept to themselves. Like it was very organized, very—

Rupert: Now as to their weapons, though, from my understanding, most of them were

semiautomatic.

Abel: Yeah, they were very high-grade military for the time. I mean, they weren't coming in with slingshots, that's for sure.

Rupert: They were definitely coming in with semi—I mean, the first thing we noticed were the semiautomatic weapons. I mean, when you show away to children semiautomatic weapons, you know, they're the first ones to fret.

Men kind of tried to keep their cool, at least they appeared to. And my 68

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) family, definitely the women and the children, were the first ones to see the soldiers, more or less, and—

Abel: You were mostly at a different end. You were at the north part.

Rupert: I don't know what you're talking about. I have no idea what he's. .

there's no north part/south part. I just remember that..

Abel: I have no conflict of what the actual directions were.

Rupert: I don't understand what you're talking about, but I do know this: that whatever it came down to, you know, was definitely on the record, and whatever we talk about it now, it's probably pretty much as I said it earlier, the Egg is hatched so to speak, the Egg

is cracked. So in terms of what actually went down afterwards, it's speculation, and you know which is why the ashram disbanded, you know, the whole thing was a traumatic experience. Everyone went their own ways; everyone left Jersey. A loose number kept in contact, and then at one point, everybody was talking to each other again. And then close older members of the ashram passed on, and as a new generation of us just don't keep in touch, and here we are.

JM: How did you get away? Or did they let you go?

Rupert: We were dismissed by two guards that were original y supposed to take in a convoy the women and children, and we were—all I remember as a child is that we

were left at what was kind of like a housing facility for just women and children, split up from Father, of course. And later on, of course, we were reunited with the rest of our families. You know, some of the older... my older brother, for example, was also separated from us, and we were regrouped. Things weren't quite the same, though, let me tell you. I mean, growing up as a kid, you know, we never talked about the ashram. We would keep in touch with everyone, but we just wouldn't talk about the ashram; we wouldn't talk about what happened. The whole incident, it was al hush-hush, you know? We all moved on with our lives. Some of us stil keep in touch. We're kind of restarting like you know the kind of thing. I mean, our parents were hippies, you know, and the whole reason this ashram business started in the first place was because our parents were physicists all studying physics in col ege.

Abel: Mr. Bigsby, if that's your name, your parents were physicists there?

JM: You two— Can I interject for a minute?

< Telephone tones >

69

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **Rupert:** Hold on a second. Let me try and figure out what's going on there.

JM: You two seem like you're almost suspicious of each other.

Abel: I thought everybody knew most of this stuff, and he's the one who keeps saying the Egg is hatched, and I just, you know— Maybe it's because I wasn't really included and my surviving family wasn't really included in a lot of these groups which he talks about, people getting together afterwards, you know, like survivors and whatever contacting each other.

I think people stil have an interest in it; I mean, we've had some contacts, but not much, and I don't know why we would— Wel , you know, I have an idea because of those other projects which were going on there, which had nothing to do with the Egg—

JM: What were those? What other projects?

Abel: Wel , I mean, there were different ones, but I mean you about the one that my

parents were involved with— Hang on one second. I gotta.. .

< Abel speaks about a CB radio in the background > **JM:** He's actually talking to us from his shop!

Rupert: Wel , you know, I mean, that's where Abel usual y spends most of his time, so, you know—

Abel: Yeah, I mean, I'll explain the CB radio thing and the money thing later, because you guys probably thought, and I know anybody listening to this or reading this probably thought, "Gee, this guy must be a real idiot, in this day and age, to be devoting his time to CBs what with the Internet, computer stuff happening. I'll get into that in a minute and show you I'm not an idiot like you were thinking.

JM: Okay.

Rupert: Wel , you've got to understand, it's telecommunications industry's where it's at, man. I mean—

Abel: Otherwise, we wouldn't be talking.

Rupert: It's the year 2000! Wake up! I mean, I don't understand it. He's up to something, let me tel you. We are suspicious of each other. I mean, everybody in the ashram, even though we stil talk to each other, there's stil a little bit of hesitancy, you know what I mean?

JM: Wel , yeah, 'cause I guess that maybe you stil think that one of the...

the rat-out was maybe an inside job.

70

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **Rupert:** Wel , exactly; I mean, we're stil trying to speculate—most of us here know who it is. I mean, I've got, you know, we've got some very close people, a few of us working together, and there's different ends of the whole thing. I mean, everybody has their own take on it.

Abel: I'm stil not convinced it wasn't an accident. I mean, you know, with information leaking out, we, ah—

Rupert: Wel , nobody knows who's talking to who anymore, I mean, you know? That's why I'm very conscious about these things.

Abel: My theory - and I could be wrong on this; I was young at the time, and I really don't remember - is that with the project my parents were working on, which was the— I'm not sure, because like I said, you were in a different part of the camp even if you don't seem to remember it, Mr.

Bigby, and we didn't real y intermingle.

Rupert: Unbelievable. A kid, so I real y had nothing to do with the Egg.

But we— my parents, if you remember the tower, it wasn't very big, but I guess it was a short-wave radio big enough to do a good job. But my parents were running the numbers stations out of there. If you remember—

Rupert: Wel , yeah, that's right, your parents were in the tower, that's right.

Abel: What? What?

Rupert: Nothing. Nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing. You just keep

going on. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt. Now apparently, I'm refreshing your memory here a bit. But we real y—my parents weren't physicists, unlike yours. We weren't really there for the Egg. Like I say, I was a kid, so I real y had nothing to do with the Egg. But we—my parents, if you remember the tower, it wasn't very big, but I guess it was a short-wave radio big enough to do a good job. But my parents were running the numbers stations out of there. If you remember—

Rupert: Wel , yeah, that's right, your parents were in the tower, that's right.

Abel: What?

Rupert: Nothing. I'm not going to repeat myself. Just keep going on.

Abel: I'd like you to repeat that. I don't know what you just said.

Rupert: Your parents were the oddballs of the lot. Everybody knows that.

Abel: They weren't physicists. We weren't involved in—

Rupert: That's right. Nobody—exactly right.

71

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **JM:** Wel , my understanding from Emory Cranston is that part of the scope of the project was to divide the ashram somewhat equal y between physicists and artists. Is that—

Rupert: Wel , yeah. Like I said, there were hippies, and there were physicists. I mean, you know, you can't have both. I mean, they were. It's all during the six—I mean, it's all during that whole era. I mean, the sixties, seventies, you know, everybody walking around with big bellbottoms, and they all looked like hippies. But yeah, there's definitely some of them that were very wel educated, and some of them that were, you know, into the whole experience of the ashram, more or less.

Abel: And they were stinky if I remember. But I think, getting back to what I think happened, I know most survivors think that there was an informant.

But I think that there was some sort of a weird, sort of quantum double-cross if you wil . The codes which were being transmitted -

now I'm not sure if everybody here is familiar with the numbers stations, short-wave radio—

JM: Yeah, I am. Let me go ahead and describe it just a bit for the listeners.

There are these strange radio stations that show up on different spectrums of the bandwidth in the short-wave spectrum and some other spectrums -

UHF used to be one of them - and there a number of transmissions - a lot of them come out of the UK, some out of Russia, different places like that.

And it's speculated, and actually, even recently, it's been admitted by a couple of organizations inside of different governments that those numbers being transmitted there are actually codes that are being sent to and from agents - spies if you wil - in different countries. And that's how they communicate.

Rupert: It's Mother Night all over again.

JM: Am I correct in that assessment?

Abel: That's more or less correct. The reason being is that short-wave radios are easy to carry, and troops out in the field don't have much risk from listening to a set of numbers. And my understanding is that they're all one-time codes which are used once and if they were used again, that it would be possible to crack it.

JM: Right. So it's a shifting algorithm.

Abel: Yes.

JM: Okay.

Abel: So what my understanding of what happened back at the ashram was that something went wrong with the number station. I don't know—

72

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **Rupert:** It was your parents who screwed up the code, probably.

Abel: That's very possible. I've often confronted them with that.

Rupert: Which is why we're all stil hesitant to talk to Abel, some of us, but I'll keep it that way. Abel: But as I explained to you al , I was just a kid then, and I really— I couldn't have done anything. I mean, my parents - and I hate to talk about this, so I won't - they might have had something to do with it. Sloppiness, I don't know.

Rupert: Smoking pot.

Abel: And everybody was then. That was something everybody did.

Rupert: Speak for yourself.

JM: Okay, wel , let me move on to another subject, then. The people that..

supposedly, in the Ashram story, there are people that have actually migrated to another dimension—

Rupert: The story.

JM: And that there's another ashram in an alternative dimension, on another earth, much like this earth, although when it was first found, it was unpopulated by human beings. And they have set up a kind of a counterculture organization or disorganization over there, and they haven't come back. Is that true? Has anybody come back? Has anybody tried to contact you from the other side? Once they go, are they gone?

Rupert: Wel , to put it out on the floor, I mean now that - I'll say it once more - the Egg's hatched - yes, there are some meetings. We do a special kind of meditation for which we use mediums. And we do try to communicate with this other side that you speak of.

As to the real terminology as to what we do during that, I'm not going to real y reveal because it's going to be looked upon. I mean, I know there's other members of the ashram that's going to be listening to this somehow, one way or another because we all keep track of each other. But yes. We'll say that we do try to communicate with other entities. I'll leave it at that.

Abel: Now, my experience with this is that most of what Mr. Bigsby says is true and right as far as I can remember. But part of the communication -

the number station, getting back to that - it was communicating on other frequencies. It wasn't just short-wave. And my understanding

was that at the time, they were already communicating with people on the other side, partially using that. And these were people that had gone before, like before the ashram even developed. It was, you know, it seems to be something which was handed down at some point in time, the information.

73

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **JM:** Okay, so there's maybe a connection to the Java2 so-called "lemur beings" that have been encountered?

Abel: It's very possible and very, very likely. I mean, I heard stories, you know, the same thing, when I was a kid living there. We heard stories from old people about moth men back in the

day, and the New Jersey devil, the weird creatures that they would see. So it seems, you know, if you connect the dots, it looks like it's—

JM: So there's possibly some sort of pre-existing vortex there? Is that what you're saying?

Abel: I don't know much about vortexes, you know. That's not my field like I said. But there's something.

Rupert: Like ley-lines, you know? Something very, very strange.

Abel: Something maybe went wrong a long time ago, and they were just sort of reconstructing to get back to that point. But something, way before the military attack, something had gone wrong. You could just kind of sense it. And it might be wrong as in, you know, a disaster and millions of people dead, but something was just not right. I don't know like you're in a house when somebody didn't close the door properly, and you feel a draft, but you're just not sure where it's coming from.

JM: Okay.

Abel: I think the attack - and I know this is part of the reason that I'm sort of ostracized from most of the rest of the survivors - I think the attack had to do with the communications and the short-wave transmissions. I think the government had people— I think they'd done this on their own. They had people in other worlds, and I think they were picking up our signals, originating from Ong's Hat, and I think that's what the attack was about. I honestly think they didn't even know that we had an Egg - or Eggs, as it may have been at the

time - and they were coming for the transmissions, to stop them, to see who was doing it. And I think they really stumbled upon the Eggs. It just accelerated the situation. I think they didn't— they weren't—they didn't seem to be looking for the Eggs. They went right for the tower if I remember right.

JM: Yeah, possibly, that could be. Or I could surmise that they were trying to take the tower out first so you couldn't broadcast any kind of SOS.

Abel: Wel , yeah, that makes good military sense.

JM: Sorry. I have a bit of a military mind- anyway.

Rupert: Mixed frequencies and all that aside, I mean, what happens during 74

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) these meditations, I might add, is just quite a phenomenon. I mean, it real y is—these Eggs—I wil mention this: I set aside my, you know, my hesitancy before. I have seen a couple of these devices.

Abel: The Egg.

Rupert: The Egg, yeah. Laying around at certain times in very— like on altars, in the ashram. At specific times they would be there, and then they would be gone when we would expect to see them again. As kids, of course, when we see objects like these, we, you know, were not reluctant to pick them up. We're going to pick them up right away.

JM: So they're actually small enough that you could handle them? They weren't something you climbed inside?

Rupert: Wel , no. These—let me get to that.

Abel: Are you talking about the Meditation Eggs or about the Traveling Eggs?

Rupert: I'm talking about.. let me get there. I'm talking about the actual Eggs, which were originally, supposedly, in theory, supposed to be the keys to the bigger ones.

JM: Oh! This is news. Great. Okay. So a smal er egg was a key to a bigger one.

Rupert: That's right. That's what they told us. Now, as to whether we

could touch them or not was a different story. No, we couldn't touch them, but we wanted to. I mean, we saw them when they were on altars. We didn't actually—now, that's one of the discrepancies with, you know, with this whole theory is that—

Abel: Which theory?

Rupert: Is the Eggs— Which Eggs are we talking about? Are we talking about the keys to the actual bigger ones, or are we talking about—

Abel: See, we called the keys the Meditation Eggs. That was just my—

JM: Well, see, that's news. To date, in the documentation, there's been no mention of those, so you guys are actually breaking news here that there was such a thing.

Abel: Yeah. I didn't know nobody knew.

JM: No, not publicly. I mean, you have to realize that, I know you guys talk among yourselves, but you're pretty clandestine and pretty tight-lipped and hard to find and a little bit paranoid, I might say - and I don't mean that in an offensive manner; you probably are well justified in your paranoia. But 75

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) yeah. It's not public knowledge.

Rupert: I did not know this.

JM: Well I don't think you're giving anything away that's going to hurt you or the projects if there are any more projects going on, but it's interesting from a historical perspective that this is a new development.

Abel: Okay.

JM: So maybe just briefly explain - and we are running out of time - but maybe just briefly explain the unlocking process. I mean, just kind of briefly describe the surface or what it looked like—

Rupert: They were these small, Easter egg kind of looking devices.

Abel: But they were bigger than, like, a chicken—

Rupert: That's right, they were about chicken-sized. **Abel:** No, they were a little bigger. They were bigger.

JM: Like maybe duck-sized, or goose-sized?

Abel: Yeah, like, like, you know—

JM: Ostrich-sized?

Abel: No, no, not that big.

JM: Not that big—

Abel: I mean, an adult could hold one in his hand, and it was kind of a good size.

JM: Okay, so somewhere between a chicken egg and an ostrich egg.

Rupert: Yeah, they were usually decorated like lingams on altars, like phallic objects that the Hindus worship, and they were usually placed accordingly. There used to be a little clicky device on the left-hand side; just one little clicking device is what it looked like. And the small key access, I should say, were usually different colors.

Abel: Meditation Eggs.

Rupert: Meditation Eggs.

Abel: We used to say. I don't know about you.

Rupert: Well, they're just eggs. I mean, you know, the technical terms for eggs aren't going to go straight here—

Abel: We were talking about them. We knew we weren't talking about the big eggs, the Travel Eggs.

76

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) **Rupert:** Right.

Abel: Yeah. I mean, there were a lot more— I don't know how many Travel Eggs there were—

Rupert: I never actually saw a real Traveling Egg. Let me say that.

Abel: Wow. Okay, yeah. I saw— I definitely saw at least one. I saw what could have been others. Either they didn't look the same; they— I don't know, they looked, like, older or something. I didn't know if they were finished or if they'd ever worked or if they were spare parts, but I know of one that was supposedly the main one. But key eggs -

the Meditation Eggs -

there were a lot more of them. They were around, you know. People seemed to have them, you know, have them in their homes like I said.

Rupert: Right. Like I said, they looked like decorative Faberge objects, you know, like the Hindus worshipped or something.

Abel: Yeah, they were certainly more like— obviously, not everybody had their own Egg, but, you know, a lot of families had - probably most had - at least one of these.

JM: Okay. Let me ask you this one more question, and then we'll wrap it up, and if you guys want to make a statement, I'm going to give you a platform to do that. But briefly, do you feel like you're stil under surveil ance, that you have reason to hide from the government or some other organizations? Is that why you don't have a singular, organized project anymore?

Rupert: Wel , we stil talk to each other. I wouldn't say it's not organized, unorganized. I mean, there stil is somewhat of a, you know, somewhat of a loop of us from the Hat. And I can't speak for him over there, but we stil keep in touch, and what we do, wel , trying to reestablish what's going on. I mean, as far as the government's concerned, everyone should keep their eyes open, and no one should — everyone should be suspicious, always.

Don't ever trust everything 100 percent.

Everybody's possible at— anything at any time. So—

Abel: I agree. Like I said, I'm not as in touch as Mr. Bigsby is with most of the people because we were a bit more separate from them. And that's sort of stil what I do for most of my money today is stil helping to run a number station in not only the short-wave kind, but with the CB radio, the CB band which is hardly used now, and even looking into Internet number stations if wireless ever comes into play. So I don't real y have too much fear. They could have kil ed me a long time ago if that was real y their intention. And, you know, after the first couple times I talked about it with a few people, and they didn't come and kil me then, either, I figured that 77

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) you know, I probably didn't know enough for it to be worth them kil ing me over.

But the other thing, by doing the work I'm doing in getting out the

numbers, you know, I don't know who I'm working for. I don't know who the money comes from when it's in my bank account. But I just follow the job, follow the orders, and do it and get paid and make a living and I feel as long as I do that, they won't kill me. Why would they? So I'm not that paranoid. I just do what they say.

Rupert: Wel , as far as I'm concerned, we have had instances where we were interrogated by a government.

Abel: Recently, or this was after the attack?

Rupert: Wel , this was recently, recently meaning after the attack, yes. I mean, there's a couple that—

Abel: A ways after the attack, right. Yeah, I heard that they were...

Rupert: They were questioning more of us who, you know, obviously because of the ashram, you know, established itself again as an actual congregation place at one point over on the west coast. And a few of us who started attending there, wel , we believed that whoever tipped off the guards in the first place, whether it be frequencies, signals, what have you, military intelligence who's on the inside still , that we're still talking to— We got debriefed again, but this time it was just the American government, and it wasn't these strange minutemen from Russia, or what have you.

Abel: You could tell they were normal American military?

Rupert: Right. And, you know, a couple of times... you know, and they asked us all the same questions, and it was all based on our history, you know, what we— you know, I mean really ridiculous things. I mean, what we liked to eat, how much money we made. I mean, I guess they were really trying to test if we were foreign bodies or something.

Abel: Yeah, yeah. They never—after the attack, and after we were in, you know, that other town with the safe houses you went over, after that they never really came to us again because, like I said, we just continued where we'd left off by doing the numbers, except we were doing it for them now.

And I think that you know, I don't know. We just did what we were told, and everything's been okay ever since, for the most part.

Rupert: Wel , I haven't talked to Abel since my last visit with the feds, but it looks like they asked him the same questions, too, you know,

which gives me reason to believe that all of us are suspect. It's not—I mean, obviously, it looks like whatever they're pawing off between us is obviously 78

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) somebody on their end. So whatever hesitancies and suspicions we have are starting to get— We're getting closer to the truth. Let's put it that way.

JM: At this time, I'm going to wrap it up, but would you guys - either one -

like to make a closing statement about who you are, what you want, what you're trying to say?

Rupert: Wel , I'd like the US government to leave us alone. That's one of my requests. We have nothing to hide. We were just kids in an ashram.

What can I say?

Abel: Wel , I don't have much to say. Just, you know, I didn't know much about the Egg. That's not our involvement at Ong's Hat. I don't know.

Maybe they'd leave you alone if you had reason to be left alone. Did you ever think of that? Mr. Bigsby?

Rupert: Wel , yeah. Yeah, I can say that we're not really alone, stil . That's for sure. But, I mean, as far as ever being left alone, yeah, I'd like to. I'd like to be left alone. I'd like to see that life can be lived to its ful est in peace.

And whatever information is out there should be shared by everybody. That goes for whether it's tangible or intangible.

Abel: Yeah, yeah.

Rupert: It should be shared. And anything that you want to know, anything that Denmark wants to know, so be it. I would let them know. We're not hiding out. America's not hiding out. I think the former Soviet Union isn't hiding out anymore or holding out, and we should just be able to share with everybody.

Abel: Have you— Mr. Bigsby, I know we talked a little bit earlier today, you know when we were deciding whether or not to do this together—

Rupert: Right.

Abel: Have you thought any more about possibly getting Joe here or letting him see one of the two remaining key eggs or Meditation Eggs?

Rupert: We wil , and I think. —

Abel: Do you think at this point—

Rupert: I've come to the conclusion that maybe we should actually have him take a picture of it for—

JM: Yeah. I was going to ask. That was the first thing on my mind.

Abel: Because, I mean, me and Mr. Bigsby have talked about this several times before, you know, before today, before bringing it up, you know. I thought you knew about them. I didn't know you didn't know about them, 79

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) but I knew that you hadn't seen one. We were debating whether to let you do that or not, but I think if Mr. Bigsby feels comfortable about it, then I do, too.

Rupert: Excel ent. That's fine, that's fine. I feel a little better talking about— You know, I must say that when it comes to talking about Ong's Hat, it's not always easy, but once you break the ice, we're wil ing to let you know what you want to know.

JM: Okay, well, I look forward to more correspondence and communication with you guys, and hopeful y, we can get something on film and out to the world.

Rupert: Excel ent.

Abel: Fine.

Note: As of this date (7-17-00), I have not yet seen a "Meditation Egg," but I have recently been contacted by both Rupert and Emory Cranston and have been told that very soon, I would be allowed to view and photograph said object. When and if I do, I wil make the photos and accompanying story available



The images

As promised, Rupert and Abel delivered a “meditation” or “key” Egg for me to examine. I shot an entire 24 exposure roll of 35mm film on a Canon camera, and the two pictures below are the only ones that came out. The rest of the roll was “splotchy,” consisting of large black areas peppered with white

“burn” spots throughout.

These two pictures would have been about center roll (12 in from the ends). At first, I thought the error was due to the camera, maybe a light leak in the body, so I took it in and had it examined at my local professional equipment dealer. It passed all tests, and since then, I have shot four rolls of the same film, the same batch, with no problems. I have been struggling with the negatives to see if I could salvage ANYTHING other than these two very poor quality shots, but it seems that this is all that I can salvage and the best image quality I can get. Make of that what you will .

Images and their quality

I started with a largely unworkable piece of film, mostly dark and flared, and then I scanned the best photo positive output from that film, then I tweaked the light and contrast levels on the resultant scan to make it viewable on a CRT monitor, then reduced it to a lower resolution file format (JPG) to make it web servable, which included reducing the color palette, so it's browser safe, etc. That explains the striations in the lens flares and weird color balances in the images (notice my neck in photo one looks as if it's

“covered in blood,” as one viewer has noted). Hopefully, next time (if there is a next time), I will be given more advance notice (I was called without warning and told, “meet us at xxxxx, now, right now. .”) so I can better prepare, and I will be allowed to bring more than one camera. This meeting had conditions on it, and “only one camera,” “no video cameras,” and “no pictures of us” (the survivors) were part of the deal.

Due to the timing of the call, none of the digital cameras that I have in my studio were readily accessible (I was 30 minutes from the studio at the time of the call). I would have preferred shooting it with my

Canon XL1 or at least the GL1, but those are mini-DV (digital video). I am quite aware that a digital camera would have been preferable, but as it turned out, all I had 82



Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) readily available was a Canon EOS ELAN 7E and a Minolta MAXXUM 7. I chose the Canon because it was already loaded with a roll of Kodak Gold Max film.

Photo Log

The Egg : Taken from my handwrit en notes of that day.

The “meditation” or “key” eggs, as described in the interview with the survivors, were supposedly used to open the larger, “travel eggs.”

Neither ‘survivor’ seemed to know how it worked. I felt as if two future primitives were showing me a television remote control and explaining to me what they think it is/was without having ever operated or seen an actual television itself.

Hopefully, I will get another chance to examine and photograph these devices in the future.

Photo 1: Shot with the camera on a tripod with a timer, no flash.

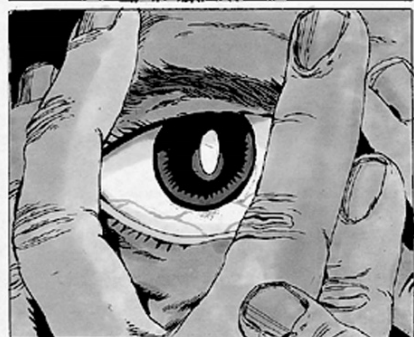
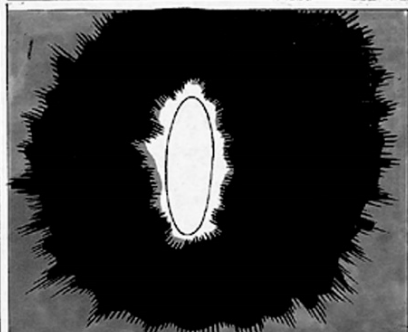
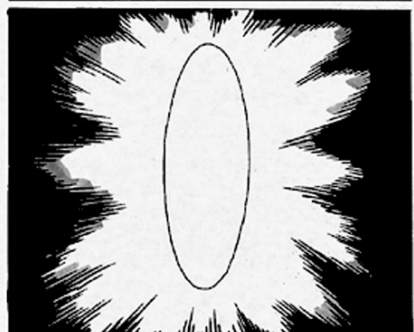


Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) *Photo 2: Abel's hand holding the Egg.*



Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) 85

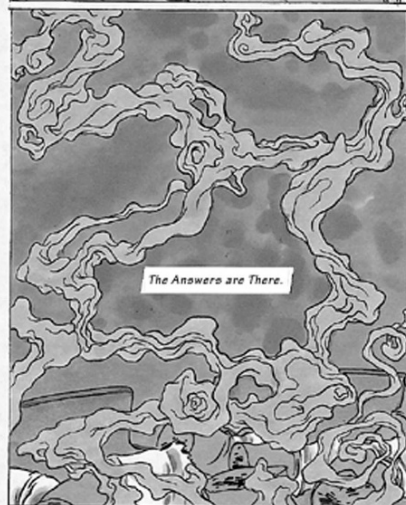
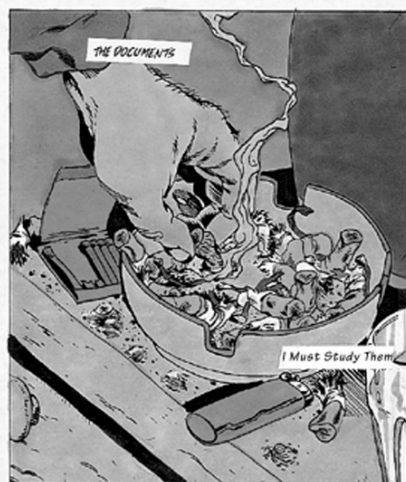
*I am alone...
More alone in the
Universe than I
have ever been before...
in any memorable point
in time, more alone...*



Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) GRAPHIC NOVEL









Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) 91











Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) 96



Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) 97

EPILOGUE

by Joseph Matheny

Many people have asked me over the years what I think this all is.

So, I'm going to give you what I think in a nutshell . Or should I say Eggshel ?

What I think the Incunabula represents is an entrainment module for Quantum thinking. It is packed full of memes and concepts that do not yield up singular answers but rather lead to a form of Quantum logic that supersedes singular answers and the need for singular answers. There may not actually be a secret plan for building an Egg, and the Egg as a physical travel device may not even be the point. However, the Egg as a symbol is all-important. I'm going to do the unthinkable here and refer you to a book. It is available for free on the Internet with a little hunting. That book is John Dee's MONAS HIEROGLYPHICA, also called THE HIEROGLYPHIC

MONAD. Find it, read it, do it now. I am sure my recommendation will once again go down as the ravings of the "Colonel Kurtz" of the Incunabula crowd, as I have already been called. So be it.

I personally believe that humanity in its present form is not ready or capable of travel to other dimensions, nor do I think we'd be welcome by many species that are. We still carry too much baggage.

Looking back through the ages, one can clearly see that humankind is not the first, nor will it be the last experiment in Gaia node consciousness.

One only has to look around with clear and honest eyes to see that this present form (humankind) has clearly plateaued and has been skidding across the plateau for some time now. As is the rule with this described state, what sets in is entropy.

One must disentangle from the last traps, namely those of nostalgic romanticism and fear, and get on with the next step. Whether you or I personally want it to happen is of no consequence anyway now, is it? Why not be a disrupter to the predominant paradigm instead of just going along for the ride? Maybe by participating in the end, we'll ensure our inclusion in the new beginning.

Humankind only holds the potential to explore other dimensions.

It's not guaranteed. The information stream encrypted within the Incunabula is not for everyone, and the laws of evolution would seem to support that.

The first appearance of a mutational curve in a species represents 2% of the total population. Through attrition, the 2% which have mutated to be more adaptable to the changing environment eventually become the 100%, and 99

Ong's Hat: The Beginning (Authorized Version) then another 2% pops up, rinse, repeat, ad infinitum.

Evolution = Change = Chaos

If you're not sure what I mean by Chaos, study the nature of Chaos in fractals and the work of Ralph Abraham, especially his book Chaos, Gaia, Eros: A Chaos Pioneer Uncovers the Three Great Streams of History. Then, come back to that formula and I think you will see that I am not espousing riots in the streets (although that may be a symptom of the change) but rather a return to the primal matrix of creation, the Qabbalistic 0, the Formless Ocean.

It would seem that our mission as agents of change is to prepare ourselves, our particular consciousness node, for... wel , SOMETHING.

Should you accept this mission, be aware that it is a long, hard, and lonely road, since you are one of only 2% of the total, and that is a low overall percentage. However, you can go to sleep each night knowing that you are facilitating the arousal of the new form, and looking around, you may have moments of clarity and say to yourself, "It's about time."

I leave you now.

CHAOS NEVER DIED!

Good luck. Wil I see you "over there"?

Joseph Matheny

From somewhere deep in the Santa Cruz Mountains 100



bit.ly/3lr2pTR

PDF copies of the original mail-art docs- <http://bit.ly/3vOG8Ei>

Slate's Decoder Ring podcast, interview with Joseph Matheny about the Ong's Hat project- <http://bit.ly/3rZxJvr>

Gizmodo article about the Ong's Hat project- <http://bit.ly/3r1Dx6d>

Audio of the Ong's Hat Ashram Survivors Interview-

<http://bit.ly/3bXBDPz>

Games Magazine coverage of Ong's Hat- <https://bit.ly/3bYl06w>

Various media on Archive.org- <https://bit.ly/3txCigB>

Ruins Left Behind by the California Travel Cult - <http://bit.ly/38U8umN>

This is Not a Game excerpt - <https://bit.ly/3eTBdMg>

Legend-Tripping Online: Supernatural Folklore and the Search for Ong's Hat by Michael Kinsella- <https://amzn.to/3lswUIZ>

102



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph Mathey is an interdisciplinary artist and technologist.

He has played a role in establishing and evangelizing standards and practices such as PDF, DVD, Podcasting, ARG, and digital video.

His groundbreaking work, Ong's Hat, Is considered the world's first Alternate Reality Game.

His work has been featured on CBS Marketwatch, CNN, CNET TV, Kiplinger's, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, NHK, MTV, PBS, LA Times, Clear Channel Radio (Art Bell), BBC, MSNBC, Boing-Boing, VICE, Slate, Gizmodo, and many other weekly newspapers, trade magazines, local and regional radio, and television.

His website is at josephmatheny.com

103

104

Document Outline

- [Authorized Version](#)